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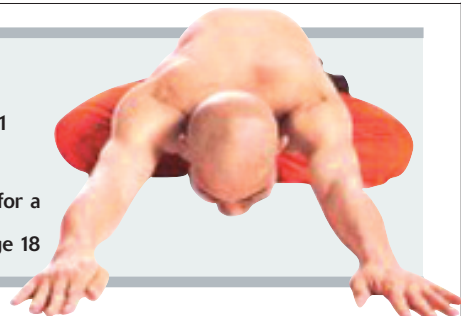


New center
heralds feast
of Spanish
culture.
Page 12



Budapest –
pearl of the Danube.
Page 21

Shaolin stretch for a
better back.
Page 18



Foreign property investment curbed

Page 2



Hotter than July – rhythm of the Caribbean hits town

'Exciting Jamaica' opened yesterday at the World Park, with debut China performances from the island's C-Sharp Reggae Band and Dance Xaymaca Theater. The event will run to August 1.

CFP Photo



Dog milk to save pandas

By Gan Tian

Staff from Beijing Zoo are appealing to dog owners to help save the lives of four baby pandas born there on Monday.

The mother of the quadruplets is unlikely to be able to produce enough milk to feed her newborns because there are too many of them. It is rare for a panda to give birth to more than two offspring at a time.

But a lactating pooch could be able to save the day. Bitches produce milk that is almost

identical to that of a panda. It contains elements that will increase the pandas' immunity and boost their chances of survival.

"Of course it is better to find an animal mother for the pandas," said Mr Wang, from Beijing Zoo. "A dog's breast milk contains immunoglobulin, which is very important for a panda's growth, so we are searching for a small-sized bitch to feed the babies."

The zoo put out an appeal on Tuesday and the owner of a whippet called 'Xiaolu'

came forward.

Xiaolu had just given birth to puppies but they had all died. She was producing milk so was able to suckle three of the pandas for two days.

Xiaolu has stopped lactating so staff are now searching for a new surrogate mom for the pandas.

Dog owners who think they can help should call the zoo's 24-hour hotline on 6839 0400.

Photo by Ye Mingxia

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foreign property investment curbed

By Qiu Jiaoning

Six Chinese government agencies, including the Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Commerce, have drawn up a new draft regulation designed to curb foreign investment in the country's property market, in a bid to prevent it overheating.

The regulation requires foreign investors to use their real names to register when buying residential houses. They will not be allowed to buy residential housing if it is not for their personal use. Also, only foreign businesses with offices in China, or foreigners who have worked or studied in China for more than one year will be allowed to buy property.

Only firms that can finance at

least 35 percent of a project's total value themselves, and obtain a land-use certificate, will be allowed to take out loans with domestic or foreign lenders. Foreign developers that want to invest more than US\$10 million in a project are required to have registered capital in the mainland worth at least 50 percent of the investment. Those that haven't paid up their registered capital will be barred from receiving bank loans.

Any such deal will have to obtain approval from the Ministry of Commerce and be licensed by the State Administration of Industry and Commerce. Transfer of projects or equity in foreign-funded property firms, or the acquisition of domestic property companies

by foreign-funded property funds, will require government approval.

The draft regulation has been submitted to the State Council for approval. They will decide when or if the regulations will come in to force depending on the development of the property market. The draft is expected to be discussed by local governments and regulators before the central government announces a final version at the end of this month or early next.

"It's natural and necessary to curb the purchase of property in China by foreign institutions and individuals. The regulation aims to prevent them from speculating in China's property market. Most countries restricting these kinds of property deals in a transition

period," said Professor Dong Fanyi, of the Center for Real Estate at Beijing Normal University.

China's efforts to cool its red-hot real estate sector, and its expected steps to restrict foreigner buying are not dampening outside interest in the market, a report by Jones Lang LaSalle found. Foreign companies, including Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs Group, have recently invested in commercial property in China.

Foreign investment in China's property sector has been driven by expectations of a stronger yuan, which would improve foreign property firms' balance sheets as it raises the value of their property holdings, said Yu Yang, an analyst at Guotai Junan Securities.

Beijing GDP up 12 percent

By Jiang Xubo

The capital's total gross domestic product hit 354 billion yuan (US\$44 billion) in the first half of this year, up over 12 percent and a 10-year record high, according to a joint report by the Survey Office of the National Bureau of Statistics and the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics.

The capital sold some 137,000 used cars in the first six months of the year, up over 52 percent on the same period last year, while the sale of new cars saw a growth of just three percent.

The price index for the sale of second-hand housing reached 109.5 percent in the first half, up 1.7 percent than last year. The index for commercial housing sale saw a surge of 1.3 percent.

"The city's house prices rose at a slow pace in the first half of the year," said Yu Xiuqin, a spokesperson for the municipal bureau. "It may continue to rise slowly but it will level off."

Orphans still in need of homes

By Jackie Zhang

Around 60 orphans whose parents died of AIDS will come to Beijing next month for a summer camp. Fifty kind-hearted families have signed up to house the orphans during their stay and organizers are appealing for more families to do the same.

"I think we need to do more promotion to recruit families in Beijing to take care of these orphans," said one of the organizers from the China Youth Concern Committee, "Most of the orphans lack confidence and are very shy. We hope that more families will come forward to give these children the care and warmth they need."

Organizers said families had been slow to come forward last year as well. "Then we got some TV publicity and we received calls from hundreds of families wanting to sign up," said the organizer. "I think one of the problems is that the days when we need the orphans to be looked after are working days. Most of the people have to go to work. But there should be retired people available to help. Lots of retired people signed in to take care of orphans last year."

It is the third time that China Youth Concern Committee has held a summer camp for the orphans whose parents died of AIDS. The orphans will arrive in Beijing on August 8 and go to the families from August 9 to 11. Families who are permanent residents in the city can sign up to help by calling the organizers on 51606627 and 5160 6629 before next Tuesday (July 25).

Job fair for jailbirds

By Chen Shasha

A job fair was held at Qingyuan jail in Qinghe district on Tuesday, with 374 prisoners and eight companies taking part in the event. It was the first time a job fair had ever been held in the jail.

The companies advertised jobs for drivers, cleaners and storehouse keepers with salaries ranging from 600 to 1,500 yuan a month.

"The prisoners are under close supervision in their daily life in the prison and don't get the chance to see how fast the world outside is changing," said Liang Jindong, vice director of Qingyuan jail. "Many of the prisoners find it difficult to get a job when they are released". A training day was also organized at the prison on Tuesday, giving lags lessons in job seeking and reading and writing tests.

Company chiefs admitted, however, that they had yet to decide whether to employ ex-cons.

Mr Wang, head of human resources at Jin Tongda Company, said, "We still haven't decided if we will actually hire former prisoners. But we do want to help them and give them opportunities to try to keep them out of crime."



First direct cargo flight from Taiwan lands in Shanghai

A Boeing 747-400 from China Airlines, the first direct cargo charter flight from Taiwan, landed in Pudong International Airport in Shanghai at 0:33 am Thursday, bringing 61 tons of chip equipment to a factory established by a Taiwan company.

Xinhua Photo

Beijing airport expressway overhaul begins

By Han Manman

Beijing's Capital Airport expressway is set for temporary closures as a massive refurbishment of the road gets underway.

Repair work to the road began on Saturday and will continue until September 28 this year. It is the first time major repairs have been carried out on the expressway since it was opened 13 years ago.

Construction work will take place between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily and the road will re-open during the day. Repairs

to the expressway include road paving, bridge reinforcement, safety equipment replacement, electro-mechanical and lighting systems upgrading and landscaping.

"Expressways should be overhauled a minimum of every 10 years but the Capital Airport Expressway has not been repaired for 13 years so it is desperately needed," said Li Xin, an official with the Beijing Capital Expressway Development Company.

Stretching from the Sanyu-

anqiao intersection in northeast Beijing to the airport, the Capital Airport Expressway first opened to traffic in 1993.

Schedule of road works: July 18-July 21 Sanyuanqiao-Siyuanqiao; July 22-July 30 Siyuanqiao-Wuyuanqiao; August 1-August 6 Wuyuanqiao-Beigao Bridge; August 7-August 20 Beigao Bridge-Yanglin road; August 21-August 22 Yanglin road-airport toll station; August 23-August 29 airport toll station-Beijing Capital Airport

Park thieves preged on tourists arrested

By Chen Shasha

Two 'itinerant salesmen' in the Summer Palace have been arrested after trying to steal from a group of foreign tourists.

Police nabbed the thieves after they were filmed on secu-

rity cameras trying to steal from the foreigners on Sunday. At Around 3:00 pm, the two men waited at the east entrance to the park and started following the group of sightseers. One of them walked up to one of the group with a box of fake Rolex

watches. With one hand holding the box, he used another hand to steal the camera that was clipped to the man's waist. "The thief's box was put near the chest of the foreigner, and it just sheltered his other hand from the man's eyesight," said

Peng Feng, a police officer from the Haidian security Bureau.

There has been a spate of thefts from foreigners at the Summer Palace since May. Police say they are stepping up their efforts to monitor the popular tourist spot.

Golf new craze for ambitious parents

By Han Manman

Children's summer golf sessions in Beijing are heavily oversubscribed, as parents send their kids on them in the hopes they will teach good manners, taste and an appreciation for culture.

A growing number of Beijing children are playing golf, widely seen as an elite sport because of the high cost of club fees. The phenomenon is still in its infancy here compared to many Western nations, but it is growing fast. Sign ups for golf summer camps and golf training are immensely popular, and some parents have already booked long-term and

weekend golf courses for after the summer vacation.

Golf clubs like the Tianyi and SGA say applications from parents for summer courses are more than double the number last year.

If you want your child to play golf, you must first pay the high club fees, which normally cost thousands of yuan for a summer course. Linan from the SGA club said that they offer a 10 day special short training for children for 2,800 yuan, whilst a three month course costs some 10,000 yuan.

Many parents hope that if their children learn golf it will teach

them to be gentlemanly, even-tempered and confident. "The kids who take golf courses mostly come from wealthy and educated families, so it's good for my child's social networking," said one mother, "It will also count in their favor if they apply for major US universities in the future."

Peking University sociology professor Xia Xueluan said the growing trend for 'aristocratic golf camps' shows parents recognize China's new social stratification.

Parents will try every means to give their child talent and a place in the new elite. Professor Xia said

the phenomenon is indicative of parents' vanity and social-climbing. "Parents should also respect their children's wishes. Don't just follow the trend and pursue vanity. In the end, one short-term golf summer course is not going to give your child an aristocratic temperament," said Xia.

Golf has already made its first step into schools in Beijing, with the Huijia private school launching a golf class last year. A collaboration between the school and the China Golf Association, the class will be compulsory for students from primary right through to high school grades.

Fake foreign franchise execs abscond with funds

By Qiu Jiaoning

Two senior executives of Beijing-based Glanville Chain Coffee Shops have absconded with seven million yuan in franchise fees, highlighting again the unregulated state of China's franchise businesses.

There are a total of 40 Glanville Chain Coffee Shops in Beijing, mostly situated near or in office buildings. It is uncertain whether or not franchisees will be able to continue running their businesses.

Fang Jun and Zhou Hongmei, the two absconded company directors, had told their franchisees that Glanville Chain Coffee is a famous Canadian brand for which they had the Beijing franchise. They published false advertising so as to attract more franchisees, according to Chu Dong, director of membership department of the China Chain Store and Franchise Association (CCFA). CCFA has contacted authorities in Canada and confirmed that the Glanville franchise is fake.

Zhang Ze, a former marketing manager of Beijing Glanville Chain Coffee, said that the brand was created by Fang Jun when he was seeking a better name for his company at the end of 2004. After the Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce granted approval to the company to change its name to Beijing Glanville Chain Coffee, the company tried to take part in franchise conferences and exhibitions in an effort to find more franchisees. "In fact, the company was not qualified to develop franchise business," said Zhang.

Tao Yongshu, who just signed a franchise contract with Fang Jun last month, said that he has invested 450,000 yuan in his coffee shop, including a franchise fee of 250,000 yuan. Tao said that he paid 30,000 yuan to buy franchise-branded coffee machines from Glanville, but found recently that these machines are sold elsewhere for 10,000 yuan.



Journey to the West again

Monks pray at a ceremony to mark the India-China Friendship Year, in Guangzhou, capital of east China's Guangdong Province, July 19.

Buddhists from Chinese mainland and Taiwan will follow the trail of Xuan Zang of a Tang Dynasty (618-907) monk and present the Indian Nalanda Buddhist temple with a Chinese Buddhist masterpiece.

IC Photo

China's 'deep space' mission

By Huang Daohen

China is working on the launch of a new space satellite and a program of exploration to focus on Mars, officials announced this week.

Speaking at the 36th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, held at the Beijing Institute of Technology

(BIT) and Beijing Friendship Hotel, Sun Laiyan, from the China National Space Administration, said China would be stepping up its program of "deep space exploration" over the next five years.

Sun said that China would study the distribution and use of

lunar resources, particularly the Earth-Moon system, as well as providing a scientific basis for supporting mankind's sustainable survival and development on the Earth. Key research the areas include space physics and solar system.

Soviet socialist realism at the Capital Museum

By Han Manman

As part of the year of Russia, a major exhibition, 'The City of the Sun. Triumph of the Socialist Realism, Soviet painting of the 1930s-1950s' has gone on show at Beijing Capital Museum, beginning yesterday. It will run until the September 16. The exhibition concentrates on the high water

years of Soviet art - from the 1930s till the end of 1950s.

A total of 245 works, including paintings, sculptures, decorative art such as carpets, and posters that reflect the image of the City of the Sun, are on display. The works document an important period of history with its achievements and errors, heroic

transformation of reality and construction of a new society.

The City of the Sun in Soviet art of the 1930s-1950s meant the ideal city and an ideal model of society where ideal happy people live. It was a time of ascendancy for socialist realism, a bright dynamic art charged with optimism.

Infomercials banned

By Han Manman

Five types of infomercials will be taken off the air from August 1, according to an announcement jointly issued Wednesday by the State Administration of Radio Film and Television and State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

The announcement, which affects all broadcasting organizations, bans programs that sell medicine, medical equipment, breast enhancement products, weight-loss products and products that claim to increase height.

Brief News

Bilis death toll hits 193

The death toll in the seven southern provinces and regions ravaged by the tropical storm Bilis has hit 193, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Eleven percent GDP growth

The country's total gross domestic product in the first half of this year reached 9.14 trillion yuan (US\$1.14 trillion), a 10.9 percent surge on a year-on-year basis, Zheng Jingping, of the National Bureau of Statistics, announced this week.

Drug smugglers caught

Border police cracked 1,968 drug smuggling cases in the first half of this year, detaining more than 2,000 suspects and seizing 1.87 tons of drugs, said Chen Weiming, director of the border administration of the Ministry of Public Security.

Lhasa group tickets still on sale

Group tickets for Beijing-Lhasa on Qinghai-Tibet railway remain on sale as usual at the Beijing Western Railway Station, according to the Beijing Railway Bureau.

China Internet users now 120 million

The total number of the Internet users in across the country hit 120 million by the end of this June, according to the China Internet Network Information Center.

More firefighters for Olympic Games

The capital will recruit 2,250 more firefighters across the country by the end of next year, ready for the Olympic Games, said Ji Lin, deputy mayor of Beijing.

Local coal mines shut down

The capital has shut down some 150 unsafe coal mines this year, accounting for over 70 percent of its total of over 210 coal mines, according to the Municipal Land and Resource Bureau.

(By Jiang Xubo)

BBC protests 'mad' Olympic times



Local residents visit the Olympic Sculpture Exhibition in Beijing. The city is now in full flight preparing for the coming event.

(AP Photo)

London, July 16 (The Observer) – British sports fans will have to get up at 3am to see some of the biggest events at the next Olympic Games in Beijing because timings are being changed to suit American television.

Showpiece finals in swimming at the 2008 Games have been moved from their traditional evening slots to the morning to please US broadcaster NBC, which is a key sponsor of the Olympic movement. The finale of some athletics events, such as the men's 100m, the gymnastics and men's basketball tournament may also be moved for the same reason.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), which runs the Olympics, has sparked a global row with broadcasters in Europe and Asia, including the BBC, who accuse it of pandering to American pressure and

penalizing audiences in the rest of the world.

A senior BBC executive said, "If the swimming finals had been held as usual in the early evening in China then people in Britain would have been able to watch them live around lunchtime. But the IOC seems to have agreed to NBC's request to the morning, which will force anyone who is keen to see them to get up at 3am, or stay up late. We will get low audiences. People have to go to work, so they won't stay up."

The executive said that NBC had also asked for some other of the most glamorous finals in the Olympic timetable – including track and field, gymnastics and basketball, all of which are popular in the US – to be switched. IOC president Jacques Rogge and senior colleagues are considering that request too.

Interview with the Olympic organizer:

First, the schedule is decided by the executive board of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Second, we, as the organizer, participate in the whole process of decision-making and provide suggestions for consideration.

The priority we are considering throughout the discussion is to create

and provide the best conditions for the athletes to compete.

Certainly, we'll do our best to take care of all the sports fans and viewers around the world. To this purpose, we'll keep on communicating with all the international federations of individual sports and the Olympic committees of each country to perfect the timetable.

In fact, we have only set the date for each contest, and have not yet finalized the time for every competition. We still have the time and flexibility to make adjustments.

—Zhu Jing,
Beijing Organizing Committee
for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG)

China bans trade in human organs



China will ban the sale of human body parts and related commercial activities from August 1.

(AFP Photo)

Beijing, July 15 (AFP) – China, which has been accused of trafficking in organs, will ban the sale of human body parts and related commercial activities from August 1, state media reported on Saturday.

According to the new regulation, 'no organization or individual is allowed to accept body donations except medical institutes, medical schools, medical research institutes and forensic research institutes,'

Xinhua news agency said.

Transport of bodies to and from China would have to be approved by the civil affairs departments, customs and quarantine authorities, it said.

At the beginning of July, the first law concerning the donation of organs and the conduct of transplant operations came into effect in order to regulate a sector, which had become a lucrative but chaotic industry in recent years.

A dire shortage of donated organs has fueled what critics inside and outside China say is a rampant black market.

The underground industry meets demand not only domestically but from patients overseas.

To meet the rising demand, hospitals have been regularly accused of secretly taking organs from.

About 20,000 transplants are conducted in China each year out of at least two million Chinese patients who need them, according to Xinhua.

Beijing to punish customers buying fakes

Beijing, July 18 (AFP) – Beijing's Silk Alley, an indoor market repeatedly accused of selling counterfeit foreign-branded goods, is mulling a plan to punish customers who buy fakes, state media reported.

The market's management said it was considering charging some customers who have a track record of buying fake-brand products a deposit of 10,000 yuan (US\$1,250), *Beijing Youth Daily* reported.

Unspecified fines would then be collected from the deposits for further breaches, it quoted manager Wang Zili as saying.



Foreigners bargain with vendors outside Xiushui Silk Alley.

CFP Photo

The money collected will be put into a special fund earmarked for the protection of intellectual property, the report said.

To many observers, Silk Alley has come to symbolize China's rampant piracy, with fake jeans and bags sold in large numbers with little apparent interference by the authorities.

However, there are now signs the official attitude is becoming less forgiving.

Last month, Silk Alley and other major Beijing markets signed an agreement with big-name international brands including Louis Vuitton and Gucci not to sell fake versions of their products.

Under the agreement, the markets pledged to enforce a "two-strike" policy in which they would evict vendors who continued to sell fake products after receiving one warning.

Interview with the editor:

As a Muslim, I am quite astonished to hear that healthy people want to sell their organs and hospitals take the organs from dead bodies without permission.

But I also accept the reality that our technologies have developed and demand for the organs exist. The point here is how to handle the supply and demand.

It's not an issue for the market. It needs our morality,

discipline and management. In this regard, government is the best and primary actor, and should have a role in setting rules and supervising and so on.

A better system must be built to ensure that all organs must be taken only from voluntary donors and with heavy compensation.

—Pren Chandran,
senior editor,
www.khaleejtimes.com

Interview with the editor:

We have the same problem of fake international branded products in Bangkok. We are also under heavy pressure from the west on these products.

I visited Beijing last year and bought some fake clothes there. But to be frank, the fake products in Bangkok are

better in quality than yours, and of course, cost more.

In Bangkok, we crack down on the producers, sellers, and the officials who are behind the scenes.

But we have never thought of cracking down on the buyers, particularly those foreigners buying the fake

products deliberately.

I believe that the step taken by the market in Beijing is more symbolic and political, rather than from a legal point of view. I fully support it.

—Supalak Gazjanak-hunbui, senior editor,
international news,
The Nation



A Russian trader works by a screen showing OAO Rosneft's share price at the Troika Dialog trading company, Moscow.

(AP Photo)

China oil giant buys stake in Rosneft

Beijing, July 19 (AP) — China's state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. said it has bought a US\$500 million (EUR400 million) stake in Russian oil company OAO Rosneft amid Beijing's efforts to secure energy supplies.

The shares are part of state-owned Rosneft's multibillion-dollar initial public offering, CNPC said in a statement. Rosneft launched its shares on a Moscow exchange Monday, and debuted on the London Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

The purchase "will further expand our cooperation," CNPC's statement said.

CNPC said it bought 66.2 million shares at the IPO price of US\$7.55 per share. That is equivalent to about 0.5 percent of Rosneft, based on the Russian company's statement that the 1.38 billion shares sold in the IPO represent 13 percent of its capital.

China is a leading buyer of Russian oil and gas, and Beijing is pressing Moscow to commit to building pipelines to deliver both.

Chinese oil companies have invested billions of dollars in projects ranging from Venezuela to Central Asia to the ocean off West Africa in an effort to develop new oil sources.

China and Russia promised to cooperate more closely in oil and gas during a March visit to Beijing by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Rosneft said then that it would launch joint ventures with CNPC to produce Russian crude and open filling stations in China.

Bombardier contracts Shenyang Aircraft

Hong Kong, July 19 (Bloomberg) — Bombardier Inc., the world's third-largest commercial aircraft maker, contracted China's Shenyang Aircraft Corp. to make parts for its Q400 planes.

Shenyang Aircraft will start supplying fuselage sections for the Q400 turboprop in 2008. It will also participate in the production of the CSeries, the plane-maker's proposed regional jet.

Shenyang Aircraft already makes parts for Bombardier's Q100, Q200 and Q300 models. It is replacing Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which ended production because of capacity constraints.

New rules for big retail stores

Beijing, July 19 (Reuters) — China will impose a slew of new restrictions on the building of large retail stores, according to draft rules under preparation in the Ministry of Commerce.

The regulations will require local governments to submit detailed commercial planning blueprints, a move aimed at avoiding the bunching of stores that could lead to excessive retail competition.

It is believed the new rules will disproportionately affect foreign retailers, such as Wal-Mart and Carrefour, because most of the big supermarkets and shopping malls are built by international retailers.

Lotte Shopping to open in Beijing

Seoul, July 19 (Bloomberg) — The Seoul-based Lotte Shopping Co., South Korea's biggest department store chain, is seeking to open a department store in Beijing.

Lotte Shopping raised a record US\$3.8bil this year through an initial public offering, has been seeking to expand.

"The talks are at an early stage and no details have been decided," the company's spokesman Kim Tae Hwa said.

Keyland acquires Beijing online business

Dublin, July 18 (businessworld.ie) — Keyland, trading in Ireland as IrishJobs.ie, has acquired a leading online recruitment business in Beijing called MyJob.com.

MyJob.com has almost 1.5 million visitors per month where it has over 53,000 clients and a database of over 1 million CVs, according to Keyland.

Keyland recently visited China to launch the Shanghai recruitment website SHJob.cn.

Huge natural gas find in South China Sea

Beijing, July 15 (UPI) — The Ministry of Land and Resources says natural gas reserves discovered in the South China Sea may be the largest ever in China.

The prospective well known as LW3-1-1 may contain a billion cubic meters of gas, Xinhua, the official government news agency, said.

The well was discovered by Husky Energy Ltd., a Canadian oil exploration firm. It is in the Pearl River Mouth Basin, about 150 miles from Hong Kong and 5,000 feet down.

Crowning jewels

An exhibitor displays a huge jade necklace at the 7th Beijing International Jewelry Fair yesterday. Over 200 jewelry traders, including 23 from Chinese Taiwan, brought various diamond, pearl, gold, jade, platinum and silver wares.

CFP Photo



Online business to reach US\$125 bln

Beijing, July 18 (PTI) — China's online transactions are expected to be worth US\$125 billion this year, a sharp rise from last year's US\$87.5 billion, a report said.

The number of Chinese netizens has surpassed 110 million and more than 40 million personal computers have access to broadband.

"It means China's infrastructure is ready for a boom in e-commerce," an analyst with CCID Consulting, Chi Congbing said.

Small and medium-sized companies will soon make up the majority of companies conducting e-business, she said.

Ninety-nine per cent of China's 31 million companies are small and medium-sized, yet only 800,000 of them made deals over the internet.

Over three million small and medium-sized companies will choose online transactions and their investment in e-commerce will rise by 35 per cent every year to 100 billion yuan in 2010.

Despite the potential, CCID Consulting president Huang Yong, warned that China's e-commerce still faces challenges stemming from a lack of policies and a credit system.

China gives ICBC nod for public listing

Beijing, July 18 (Reuters) — China's banking watchdog has given the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the country's top lender, the go-ahead for a public listing.

Liu Mingkang, head of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, said this week that ICBC's plan to go public "has been officially approved".

But he did not clarify whether

approval had been granted for a Hong Kong listing or for a Shanghai listing.

Sources familiar with the ICBC's plans for an initial public offering told Reuters that the bank aims to raise as much as US\$21 billion in a dual Hong Kong and Shanghai listing in October.

The sources said that ICBC, on track to become the third of China's Big Four state banks to go

public, planned to offer simultaneously 12 percent of its enlarged share capital in Hong Kong Stock Exchanges and 6 percent in Shanghai Stock Exchanges.

The Beijing-based lender's net profit jumped 12.4 percent to 33.7 billion yuan (US\$4.2 billion) in 2005. Non-performing loans fell to 4.69 percent of its total loans, compared with 21.16 percent in 2004.

Baidu and Sohu spat intensifies

By Han Manman

The war between Baidu.com and Sohu.com about Baidu's trimming its staff is escalating this week after Sohu published the blogs of two employees fired by Baidu.

Baidu, the world's biggest Chinese search engine, closed its enterprise software department on July 10. Approximately 30 employees in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen were fired, effective immediately. Baidu explained that it closed the department because the service does not match its core Internet search engine business. Baidu promised to provide reasonable compensation.

Shortly after, on the same day, a telephone record about the dis-

missal process was published on Sohu and was forwarded to domestic web forums. After Sohu's follow-up report of the affair, Baidu issued a release saying that the telephone records were faked. The release also quoted Baidu vice president Liang Dong as saying that Sohu's comments about Baidu and their business practices were essentially libelous. Sohu reacted angrily to Baidu's accusations, saying Baidu's criticism of Sohu was motivated by a desire to shift public attention away from their own failings.

Sohu invited the fired employees to open blogs on Sohu to tell the inside story and published two anonymous blogs written by former Baidu employees.

The fired employees claimed that the company's actions contravened China's labor laws, which dictate that laid-off employees should be given one month's notice. The employees also said the compensation was well below what they thought they were entitled to.

"The war between Baidu and Sohu is far from over. The fired Baidu employees may write more," said an insider who asked not to be named, adding, "Lots of websites reported the dismissals, not just Sohu. The war may also be viewed as the two competitors war because one of Sohu's search operations has already caught up with Baidu's, which is putting further pressure on Baidu."

How to stay cool

By Jane Perrone (The Guardian)

The current heat wave in Britain has allowed tabloid sub-editors to push the art of the pun-laden spread to staggering new heights, with animal photos accompanied by headlines such as 'It's getting otter' (an otter eating a fish ice lolly) and 'Ape in a cape' (an orangutan keeping cool under a sack). And the inevitable shots of skimpily-clad young ladies frolicking in fountains, of course.

The Guardian's treatment of the story is different, of course: it focuses on how to keep cool without turning on the air conditioning, thus maintaining your green credentials.

Now we want to hear from you.

Comments:

In many countries where such scorching sun is regular the use of umbrellas as a shield from its effects isn't uncommon at all.

It's good sense, really – and lately I've spotted quite a few Londoners doing the same!

I never did understand the silly conception in England that brolies are purely for wet weather. Whoever said that they shouldn't be used as portable shade?!

– CateM

Just sip cool water, keep out of direct sunlight, shade your windows (including the car) and spray water on your face, hands

and feet (no need to buy expensive sprays – just get one from a hardware store).

Keep an eye on the kids and elderly – make sure they are OK above all.

– cuningod

It's probably the fact that in England, we get more rain than sun. Therefore you're expected to make the most of the sun rather than hiding from it!

– HiddenAway

In Adelaide, where you can get over 40 degrees for weeks (if it is bad), I used to soak my shirt in water before leaving the house. Before you got anywhere it would be dry, but it would provide a few minutes of respite. Also works with a baseball cap, and while not the height of chic, will keep the sun off your face

Cold showers were great too, and will cool you down very quickly. Do this as soon as you get home, and things seem a lot more bearable.

Always carry some water around with you, do all your



A boy jumps into a pool close near Windsor Castle in London. Britons have coped with the hottest July day in history by pouring grit on melting roads, allowing schoolchildren home early and giving zoo lions blocks of ice flavored with blood.

(AFP Photo)

work at the beginning and end of the day, and stay out of the sun between one and three. Hanging around supermarket frozen food sections was a good idea too.

– cakesy

The word umbrella actually means 'little shade', so I think we should march out the door with one and be proud!

– cerinamroth

I lived in Uzbekistan for a while, where it used to get damn hot in the summer. The tradition amongst old Uzbeks was to don a (really) heavy sheepskin hat, and a heavy jacket: then sip hot green tea all day. Apparently the idea was that raised your body temperature 'inside' so you felt cooler relative to the temperature 'outside'. The Uzbeks used to swear by it.

– bananasthemonkey

The British love a good moan. We moan when it's cold, we moan when it rains and we moan that it's too hot once the sun actually comes out, despite flying in our millions to equally hot holiday destinations. The poor old weather just can't win.

– davros

In order to stay cool, the best approach is to wear a shirt with small pockets that have been stitched into its entire surface area. The pockets are then filled with ice cubes. The beauty of this very cool shirt is that it can be used in conjunction with a fan for maximum effect.

– ArchibaldStrang

If you're wearing the sort of shoes where it doesn't matter, wet them before putting them on. I've done that for years, to stop my feet swelling up, and find it works quite well.

– treehugger

Weekly topics

Newsweek (USA)

1. Where's the Tsunami warning system?
2. Bloggers on the Mideast violence
3. Contreras on Mexico's close election
4. Social networking gets political
5. Does Mideast crisis boost U.S. terror threat?

New York Times (USA)

1. In an about-face, Sunnis want US to remain in Iraq
2. For CBS's fall lineup, check inside your refrigerator
3. Blame by some Arab leaders for fighters
4. Arizona ballot could become lottery ticket
5. Times to reduce page size and close a plant in 2008

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

1. Girl, 4, killed in multiple dog attack
2. Row over Hester's assets
3. The big picture is a plasma price plunge
4. Not to be sneezed at: we whinge while Poms weather the heat
5. Angst of city's sex workers

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Black culture focus of school program
2. Seething Hillenbrand sent packing
3. Heat records topple in England
4. Toronto condo sales hit new high
5. Eerie storm scenario takes two lives

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. US 'could be going bankrupt'
2. Cry of the enfant sauvage
3. La vraie Francaise
4. Slip up reveals Bush and Blair's gossip secrets
5. Brilliant men always betray their wives

(By Jiang Xubo)

'Best place to live' not completely happy

By Patrick Cooper (USA Today)

Money magazine has named Fort Collins, Colorado, the best place in the US to live, but not everyone in Fort Collins is pleased. "This information is one more nail in the coffin," a leading local tells The Col-

oradan today.

There's plenty of positive comments in the story, but there's also concern about the health care system's ability to handle an influx of wanting-to-live-in-the-best-place-to-live people.

Another story about the win finds similar mixed reaction. "It's nice to be recognized as a quality community, but that recognition could end up threatening our quality of life," a city council member says. A 'double-edged sword' also

gets mention.

Meanwhile, the city coming in second in the survey sounds like it would be happy to face that sword.

You can get the full city list and plenty of accompanying coverage on the Money website.

Comments

Trust me, the people who say all we have is chain restaurants, lol, these are the people who never try anything different, lots of very good local restaurants, deli works, silver grill to name a few, and our micro beers are some of the best in the country. but stay away we don't want you.

– frt. collins

I am a native of Colo, now retired in N. GA, and would not consider going back to Colo including Ft. Collins, for anything more than a visit.

It's too cold, too crowded, and too populated with people from Calif and other sorry places.

– Roy Johnson

Don't come to Fort Collins. It's like living in a fort. The women are big, the cattle are afraid, most restaurants serve beans and the roads are dirt. We don't have running water and we still use outhouses. It's always cold and there's no place to eat or shop. No jobs, the houses are made of cardboard and duct tape.

Turn back before it's too late!

– Bootsie Collins

Do the people who judge these things ACTUALLY go to the towns?

– Toby

I've been to Fort Collins on several occasions. It's nothing more than a college town with red neck locals who dislike anything that is not like themselves.

– Billy Smith

My wife and I are Colorado natives who moved east in the late 70's for post-graduate educational opportunities. We love 'calling' CO home and regularly visit, but recognize that it is no longer the Colorado of our youth. From the influx of 'refugees' from the Rust Belt and the Left Coast, the Colorado we remember has become overcrowded, expensive, gaudy (touristy), and less friendly.

– MP in Tenn

Although the ranting of Disagree kinda' scares me I have to agree with most of what he/she said. It's all relative! I'm an Afri-

can American and typically find that the 'best' of anything usually means it's the best for the white male.

– Disagree II

Nice place if you are the right race and religion.

– It's OK...

Since being named a 'best place to live', Melbourne Florida's quality of life has suffered, and it now has all the big city problems.

– Carl

It is unfair to describe one single place as the best place to live in. Only narrow minds would think of lands, places and people that way. Even if we need to rank things to organize and categorize them, which we do very well, this falls in the unclassifiable group.

– Disagree

I traveled all over this country. I have lived in Philly, Delaware, West Virginia. I now live in Fort Collins and I pinch myself each day because it is as close to Utopia as I have ever seen.

– Ken Carpenter

A city is what you make of it. No matter what city you live in, there will be negatives and there will be positives. Find the one that gives you the right balance of joy. Cheers from Midland, TX!

– Jeff

Actually, the guy who designed Disney's Main Street USA was from Ft Collins (I have only been to Disney World twice but I felt the similarity and calmness immediately when walking in FTC) ...

I think FTC has a familiarity that breeds fondness and comfort.

– Susan

The number one ranking for Rochester, MN several years ago marked the beginning of a definite decline in quality of life which continues to decay even today.

Huge influx of 'want-to-live-in-the-best-place' people bringing their baggage and dirty laundry has taken us down.

– BJ

King of Sweden collects family memories in Beijing

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The visit to Beijing of king of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia from Wednesday to Thursday heralded a better understanding and cooperation on culture and economy between the two countries.

On Wednesday evening, the King and Queen attended a Peking Opera performance in Huguang Guild Hall. The operas were *Farewell My Concubine* and *Monkey King in the Heaven Palace*. The King expressed his appreciation and complimented the performance. He presented a photo of his grandfather, the previous King Gustav Adolf (1882 - 1973) taken in the Peking Opera master Mei Lanfang's house in 1926, as a gift to the guildhall. Huo Jianqing, the general manager of the hall, gave a painting of a Dan (the female character in Peking opera) collected by Mei Lanfang in return.

The royal family of Sweden has an intimate connection with China. Gustave Adolf visited China in 1926, when he was still Crown Prince, and went to the Forbidden City as well as to Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, where he took part in excavations. During a Peking opera performance, he met with Mei Lanfang and was invited to have dinner in Mei's house. The King had a deep interest in Asian art and archaeology and was himself an amateur archaeologist. He collected Asian art and had an extensive collection of Chinese artifacts that now belong to the Museum of Far Eastern



The King and Queen attended a Peking Opera performance in Huguang Guild Hall.

IC Photo

Antiquities in Stockholm.

On Wednesday, the current King and Queen had a meeting with Wang Qishan, the Mayor of Beijing; visited Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall, the Capital Museum and watched Peking Opera. In conjunction with the King's visit, the biannual Joint

Committee on Trade Cooperations between China and Sweden took place under the chairmanship of Yu Guangzhou, Vice-Minister of Commerce. The next day, the King inaugurated the new Ericsson Tower in Beijing and met with the direction of the State Administration of Environ-

ment Protection. Queen Silvia paid a visit to the children at Sun Village, an orphanage for condemned prisoners' children, and to Aids patients in Ditan Hospital. In the afternoon, Chinese President Hu Jintao received the King and Queen at the Great Hall of the People.



The King and Queen aboard the Gothenburg.

Photos by Shen Guanghua

speech on the deck. We made a safe journey thanks to the crew. He also offered his thanks to all the volunteers who carried out all the boring and demanding work along the journey.

"It was a magic trip. I am very satisfied with this ship," said Joakim Severinson who took charge of the *Gothenburg's* design and manufacture. He spent seven weeks on the ship when it traveled from South Africa to Australia, the longest part of the whole journey. "It took more than 10 years to build this ship. And today, we have finally made the whole nation's dream come true. We traveled to China in this ship made with techniques more than 260 years old. It is really exciting," he said.

The King left the sun deck at 10:30am and walked to the main deck, where other guests and sailors gathered, with the captain as his companion. He shook hands and chatted with four novice sailors in Swedish for a dozen minutes and then went up to the bar to shake hands with female sailors in court dresses from the 18th century. Many journalists did not recognize the King at first because he had taken off his suit. They went forward and bombarded him with questions.

We had the Passenger Park in sight at 11:25am. *Gothenburg* showed its salute by firing eight guns. Three groups of sailors climbed up the fore mast, top mast and mizenmast. They dropped red strips (representing China) from the fore and top masts and yellow and blue strips (representing Sweden) from the mizenmast. At 11:50am, the King stepped on the gangway and headed for the Chinese receiving delegation on the shore.

The captain told me that we would have to take down the masts today to make sure that the *Gothenburg* could pass a bridge on the way to its final harbor. Maybe another sleepless night, working!

By Alice Jian

(Translated by Jiang Xubo)

Last two days on board

July 16, Cloudy

One last day in the waves

"We will travel for Nansha Cargo Park tomorrow morning. In six hours, we will be there," said Peter Kaaling, captain of the *Gothenburg*.

We laid anchor outside the harbor near the Wanshan Islands, Zhuhai, for three days because we had reached our destination ahead of schedule. We planned to enter the harbor on June 18, to pick up the King of Sweden and Queen with other 90 VIPs there and then head for the Nansha Passenger Park. A 20-minute greeting ceremony was to be held there.

We sailors did not have to go on duty in turn, 24 hours a day, after the ship anchored. Work hours were reduced to eight hours a day and all we had to do was clean the ship. The two sailor groups on duty were busy removing greasy filth on the deck and refreshing the ship's coat of paint.

Every Sunday was for entertainment on the *Gothenburg*. It was our turn. All people on board knew that Ulf, our group's boatswain, had a beautiful voice and was crazy about



Back home!

singing. We imitated a well-known Swedish TV show and prepared 12 songs. We even rewrote four songs, one Swedish song, *Guangdong Always in my Heart*, and one English song, namely *On the Way to China*. Beautiful melodies were floating above the sea. All of us were in the exultation of making a great dream come true.

I, the only Chinese sailor, was presented to the audience as a big Chinese surprise. I invited the other 11 Chinese on board to sing with me. We belted out a song from Theresa Teng. And the audience really appreciated it.

Chinese journalists contin-

ued to sing to make a time of it after our group's performance ended. Folk songs, pop songs and even modern Beijing Opera popped up. What's more, singing made us happy, puffing away all the troubles we had endured in the last month.

We held the fourth lecture session for the Swedish crew on Chinese culture yesterday afternoon. We gave a brief introduction about Guangzhou, our destination. The lecturer even prepared a lucky dip and offered gifts ranging from shuttlecock and fans to crew suits. What a surprise!

Customs officers tried to board our ship and carry out custom formalities the day before. But our ship failed to get close enough because of huge waves caused by typhoon Bilisi. What was more, their customs steel ship gave our wooden *Gothenburg* a smack despite three huge rubber balls we had thrown between the ships for cushioning, leaving our ship two crooked cleats. The custom ship tried for one more time that afternoon and cost *Gothenburg* a keel.

Our boatswain claimed at supper that we'd only suffered minor damage. But our carpenter was like a bear with a sore head.

July 18 Sunny

The King on board



Interview the King.

The *Gothenburg* finally greeted the King and the Queen, accompanied by 90 other honorable guests who arrived at 9:30am yesterday morning. The captain, in his white uniform, extended his greeting in person at the ship's gate. Our ship got free of the cargo park 15 minutes later and headed for Nansha Passenger Park, where crowds of people were waiting.

The King was in a sky-grey suit, wearing a violet tie. The Queen wore jewelry, a blue suits and a muslin hat, elegant and graceful. The fan in her hand was an absolute eye-catcher. It was a silk folding fan painted with two adorable kids chasing butterflies. The captain made a brief



A photo taken in a dandelion field in Norway.

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Lucie Kralova, a student director of Prague Film Art College, and her friends are coming to Beijing to return some photos they found five years ago. But they still don't know who the owners are.

On July 14, Globe 360 Degree, a program broadcast by CCTV 4 showed a short documentary film produced by Kralova and Martin Reznicek. The film was about Chinese men who had lost their films of photos in Sweden. In just two days, hundreds called to provide clues and five of the owners were found.

The mysterious films

The story started in 2001 when Lada Jelinek, a Czech man, traveled to Gothenburg, Sweden. He found a dirty suitcase by accident in a small housing estate and discovered 22 rolls of films inside. Out of curiosity, he produced the films and saw that the 756 photos were of some Asian men traveling in different

countries around Europe. One of his friends introduced him to Kralova, who was planning to make a documentary on public tourism and tourists' photography. She soon developed the idea of seeking the owners of the films by the clues on the photos and recorded the whole process as a documentary.

5,000 km

From 2003, Lucie, Lada and Martin formed a 10-people shooting team and started the Lostholiday project. First they asked many Asian people to identify the nationality of those people on the photos. From the way they looked, nearly all the interviewees recognized them as Chinese.

Then the film team tried to trace the way those Chinese tourists had traveled, which was not easy, either, as a lot of the photos were taken in places without any symbols, such as a dandelion field. Some of the photos were taken in China. Still they figured out a general route cover-



Doughty's family in the house in Beijing

Photos by Li Fanyu



In the courtyard



Alex and Max in bedroom

rience as well.

IHEN (International Home Exchange) started their service in 1995, claiming to serve the needs of vacationers worldwide. Most ser-

ing 5,000 kilometers:

China: Hainan Island and Beijing

Germany: Frankfurt, Mohan and Heidelberg

Norway: Oslo and Norwegian fjords

Sweden: Gothenburg

The search was very complicated and difficult. Their first breakthrough was finding a western couple and a tourist caravan with German license plates in one photo. Lucie tried to find the renting agent to trace the renter of the caravan. With the help of the agent, they found the German couple who had taken some photos for the Chinese men, who provided clues of the hotel



The lostholiday team found the shooting spot finally.

Photos provided by Beijing Youth Daily

they used to stay.

Without financial support, the Lostholiday team could not carry their search on further. They built a website www.lostholiday.com to publish some photos and information about their search.

Identity

All the members of Lostholiday team got very excited at the news of getting in contact with the owners. However, Sun Jie, the producer of the Globe 360 Degree, the Chinese implied that none of those Chinese men would like to publicize their identity as most of them were governmental officials.

Lucie and her team are organizing their China tour now. Money is still a big problem.

Football team to release injured foreign player

By He Jiamwei

Chinese soccer team Shenyang Jinde announced that they will end the contract with foreign player Ousmane Bangoura after he became blind in his right eye, said Jinde's spokesman on July 19.

"It is impossible that Bangoura go back into the game after his right eye was wounded badly, but Jinde has provided him with the best medical treatment. Since he lost the sight in his right eye, we will end the contract with him. We hope we will be understood," said the spokesman.

Bangoura was badly injured in a soccer game of CSL (Chinese Super League) against Qingdao Zhongneng on July 7. In the 32nd minute, Bangoura was hurt by Qingdao's Lu Gang whose shoe spike connected with Bangoura's right eye as he headed the ball. Lu Gang only got a yellow card.

As for compensation, the spokesman said, "Bangoura will get compensation from the insurance company under the regulations of his contract." As Bangoura is a foreign player, he will not get compensation from Jinde Club. "We believe Lu Gang will bear the greater part of the compensation for Bangoura's injury."

Bangoura, 26-year-old, was a promising player in Guinea. He was the best striker for Guinea during the 2006 African Cup of Nations and helped the country reach the quarter finals.

New Life makes new jewelry

By Annie Wei

The New Life Center is a training center for disadvantaged young people aged 10 to 20. The center, supported by donations, aims to help children live and study in a better environment and complete primary and lower secondary education.

Last week, Janice Chong, an expat jewelry designer, and her friend Elizabeth Feurstein spend two afternoons in the center. Chong taught children ranging from 10 to 16 the basic skills of making jewelry and Feurstein assisted.

Chong used to teach a jewelry making course for her expat friends in the Lido area. Normally, she limits her classes to 10 to 12 students at most. Her first day of meeting more than 30 children in a class was a little bit overwhelming.

"But we have had a wonderful time," Chong said, "The kids were very keen to learn."

"They learnt how to improve their skills so that they can make something good enough to be sold in the market," Chong said.

main reason they chose the one they did was because of the location.

Jayne and George Camille have visited China three times. Was it very different to stay in a house exchange?

"In the morning, we go to the local market and cook for ourselves. We can find out what is sold in Beijing's markets, and talk with the local vendors and you never do that by living in the hotel," said George.

There were more advantages. Their children Alex, 16 and Max, 14, found an Internet cafe near the house and enjoyed the Internet games. The whole family visited restaurants recommended by friends instead of tour guides.

"Doing a house exchange allows our friends to visit us from other countries," George Camille said, "Next week, we will have another six friends come to China."

So far, house swapping seems exciting to the family. Weren't they concerned about it before they finally arrived? Fake information or fake pictures are easily made online.

"It's about trust," Doughty said. And both families have domestic helpers and friends who can keep an eye on the house. The key is that you have to find a place in the same condition as your own, Doughty said, and with things like bills and local phone calls, you have to be flexible.

"We have already started to plan another home exchange for Christmas. Maybe in Singapore, because there is a direct flight between Seychelles to Singapore at that time," Doughty said.

vices work the same way: you sign up for free, filling out a profile that describes what your house or apartment is like (such as how many bedrooms, what the area you live in is like), where you want to stay, for how long and when you plan to go away, as well as some personal information about your neighbors.

Surprisingly in China, only three major cities have people posting their houses on these websites. Doughty said that many posters from China were from Shanghai, and she found around 20 families in Beijing and some from Shenzhen.

As this was Doughty and her family's first time house exchanging, she did not try the big websites but Beijing's international schools and listing magazines.

"We got 15 to 20 offers from Beijing," George Camille said, "Quite a few were Chinese families." The

Exhibition makes art of new media

By Chu Meng

To establish a high profile platform for dialogue and exchange with current trends in new media arts production, a week-long avant-garde exhibition was launched at the Millennium Museum today.

The exhibition was held by the Ministry of Culture, and was jointly sponsored by the British and Dutch embassies. Themed 'Code: Blue', the exhibition presented representa-

tive works of telemetric art, virtual reality, net art, robotic art, interactive cinema, and other new forms facilitated through media technologies. A subset of the 'Code: Blue' is a program named *The Shipment From China*, in which Chinese media artists uses shipping containers to expand their understanding of the trends of Chinese new media.

In the early 1400s, 80 years before Columbus set foot on

the Americas, Chinese fleets led by Zheng He, a eunuch admiral, had traversed the Indian Ocean. Since then the country began to establish peaceful relations with principalities and kingdoms along the voyage routes, propelling cultural understanding, and precipitating trading activities.

The rise of China in the 21st century as a major economic player in the Pacific region has superseded this legacy of

an oceangoing nation, with a creative merchant spirit. Thus 'Code: Blue' attempts to symbolically establish a relationship between China's once ocean-minded past and her active engagement and rigorous interaction with current global influences.

Complimenting the exhibition, three more shows will be on view: an academic exhibition, a guest exhibition and a special screening program.



TomTom on stage

Photo provided by 171 Middle School

Lederhosen and calligraphy combine in Sino-Austrian drama

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Austrian and Chinese students teamed up on Sunday to perform a musical drama about a boy's trip to China.

Seven students from the Wasa Middle School in Vienna and a group of teenagers from Beijing's 171 Middle School took to the stage at the Shijia Hutong Primary School in Dongcheng District.

They performed *TomTom*, a musical drama in English about a boy and his friends' trip to China to look for trea-

sure. Chinese artistic forms like calligraphy, martial arts, *Jinghu* (a traditional string music instrument) and folk dance were used throughout the performance. The play finished with a scene of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The drama was performed as part of this year's China Culture Year. It was sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the China-Austria Friendship Association.

I've been to the Netherlands, now where's my job?

By Chen Shasha

When Trude Maas, known as the second most powerful woman in the Netherlands, came to Beijing to speak on personal development to Chinese alumni of Dutch universities, many graduates claimed that it was hard to find a job in Dutch companies when they came back to China. The meeting took place at the Netherlands Education Support Office on July 18,

As member of the Senate of the Dutch Parliament and president of the HayVision Society, which is a global management consultancy, Trude Maas came to China to visit multinational companies like Philips during her visit. She found that many multinationals in China prefer those who have studied abroad. But many Chinese alumni who got their first job in a German or British company claimed that Dutch companies refused them. Trude Maas said whether you work in a state owned company or a multinational, it is important to set a lifelong learning program. She suggested the Netherlands Education Support Office set up communication between companies and Dutch graduates as well as Dutch overseas students in China.

Canadian choirs rock Beijing

By Jackie Zhang

The British Columbia Boys Choir and Girls Choir performed together at the Poly Theatre last weekend. It is the first time the two choirs have come to China.

During the show, the boys and girls sang 30 world famous songs for a Chinese audience in around 10 different languages, including classic songs like selected parts from Mozart's operas and traditional Canadian songs.

The choirs' renditions (in Chinese!) of two old Chinese songs called *Kang Ding Qing Ge* (Kangding Love Song) and *Ta Xue Xun Mei* (Footprints in The Snow) earned warm applause from the audience.

"We sang these two songs in 1987 when I first came to Beijing to give choir performances," said Fiona Blackburn, director of the girls' choir. "We specially added these two songs to our showlist again specially."

The British Columbia Boys Choir was founded in 1968, and is well thought of in the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, as well as at home.

The choirs perform in different countries every year. Having finished the two concerts in Beijing, the choirs went to Xi'an this week. Later, they will travel to Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai to complete their China tour.

Be nice to plants

By Jackie Zhang

David Paterson, vice director of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, met a Chinese audience at the British Council Beijing office this Wednesday and delivered a speech focusing on the diversity of plants and botanic gardens in China.

During the speech, Paterson showed the pictures he had taken around Lijiang area in Yunnan Province. These pictures showed a diverse range of plants that people rarely see in crowded and busy cities. These plants are also at the edge of extinction. "I want to give important information on the diversity of plants in China to Chinese people," said Paterson. "Just like a valuable and beautiful painting in a museum, nobody will

run into the museum and tear it up since they know the value of it. People should treat plants as they do valued paintings and other cultural relics."

"Chinese people are aware of it now," Paterson added, "They know that they should take care of the plants. But we need to do more to let our offspring see these plants in the future."

After the speech, David Paterson answered the audience's questions ranging from how to protect plants' diversity in different environments to the history of Chinese botanic gardens.

Staff from Lijiang Botanic Garden, David Paterson's working partner in China, also took part in the event.

Farnham Youth Choir to perform in the Forbidden City

By Chen Shasha

The Farnham Youth Choir, one of the most famous children's choirs in the UK, will hold a concert in the Forbidden City Hall on July 21. They have just represented the UK at the 4th World Choir Games (known as the Choir-Olympics) in Xiamen, Fujian Province this Wednesday and won a silver medal.

In the performance for the British

Council, the choir will sing songs in different styles, languages and moods, especially spiritual and sacred music from many different eras. The music they chose to sing at the Xiamen International choir competition will be shown in Beijing as well.

The Farnham Youth Choir was founded in 1984 by the current musical director David Victor-Smith and his wife. The singers are aged from 12 to 18.



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Foreign students flock to Beijing

By Chen Shasha/Jackie Zhang

Hundreds of students from Britain and the US have flocked to Beijing this month to take part in summer camps being held across the capital.

Ten top students from Britain and the US are in Beijing this week to teach English and learn about Chinese culture.

The students, from Harvard, Cambridge and Princeton University, came to Peking University for the 2006 Crimson Summer Exchange (CSE) set up by Harvard

University alumni and friends.

They will give English classes to around 50 Chinese students selected from different high schools in Beijing as well as taking part in lectures, drama performances and debate until August 25.

Last Saturday, another two summer camps also started in Beijing for students from Britain and the US.

They are the members of the Chinese Language and Culture Summer Schools, which will focus on language, culture, sport and friendship

between young UK and Chinese students. The students will take part in classes on Chinese language, Chinese Martial Arts, Chinese painting, folk dancing and Peking Opera mask painting. They will also visit some of the famous historical and cultural sites around Beijing.

A further 270 British students and teachers will go to Kunming, Shanghai, Suzhou and Xiamen to attend summer schools there as part of a scheme organized by the British Council.

The US summer camp brought

Chinese children adopted by American families to Beijing as part of a 'motherland tour' of China.

"The 78 children were abandoned by their parents in China and then adopted by American families," said Pei Xue, an official from the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office. "Most of them can't speak Chinese."

The kids spent six days in the capital, visiting famous sights including the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Great Wall. They flew back to America on Thursday.

Frenchmen peddle environmental message

By Huang Daohen

"Things can change, we just need to start ... each of us," said Richard Julian, a French environmental engineer and member of the KEILA Association, at a 'Green Choice' talk held in CESDRRC (China Environment and Sustainable Development Reference and Research Center) library on Tuesday. On March 5th, 2005, Richard set off from Paris on a recycled bicycle and began an 18,710 kilometer journey to Shanghai.

Richard finally arrived in Shanghai last month. During the 16-month trip, covering 18,710 kilometers, he crossed 16 countries including Germany, Rumania, Turkey, Iran, India, Malaysia, Vietnam and finally China.

"The initial goal was to increase people's awareness through my traveling experience, with ideas and second-hand products." In order to

keep to the theme of reducing environmental impact, Richard rode a bicycle made entirely of re-used materials.

The 'wheels of recycling' is the first project held by the KEILA Association. Concerned with preserving the environment and encouraging intercultural exchanges for the development of serious and worthy environmental projects, the KEILA Association was set up to take up new challenges in this field. Through the 'Wheels of Recycling' project, the Association is promoting a travel philosophy based on exchange, reciprocity and cooperation, by using a non-polluting means of transport which is accessible to everyone – the bicycle.

Richard Julian will be in Beijing until the end of the month. He will be sharing his experience at CESDRRC.

French 'blog' party

By Annie Wei

The third 'Beijing bloggers' party' was held at the Drum and Bell bar last Saturday. It was organized by a group of French blog enthusiasts.

Blogging is a trendy past time for many in the expat community and is becoming increasingly popular. Writing a blog

allows people to keep in contact with friends and family back home as well as talking about their experiences in Beijing.

Organizers said the French bloggers' party was a chance for people to mingle and meet.

It was also the first blog party to be attended by Chinese, as well as French, bloggers.



Alex and John's friends show their support for the trip
Photo provided by John

Beijing expats' drive from UK to Mongolia

By Annie Wei

Alexander McKinnon and John O'Loughlin, two New Zealanders in Beijing's expat community were selling T-shirts in Bed Bar last Saturday to raise money for the 2006 Mongol Rally.

The rally is a charity event designed to be an adventure for the participants, driving cars from the UK to Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia's capital. Money raised will go to a charity in Mongolia, a mercy call to develop the local culture there. Around 200 cars will depart from Hyde Park, London, on Saturday. Most of the participants are from the UK but a small number are from the US and New Zealand.

Mackinnon said the motivation for joining the rally was not only

to raise money for charity. He said that many of the participants have traveled to Mongolia before and have a strong interest in rally sports and the Mongolian culture.

The trip is expected to be rough. Rally drivers aim to finish the journey within three weeks. The distance is about 8,000 to 10,000 kilometers so they have to drive 300 kilometers a day. The cars they are going to drive are 970cc and not particularly powerful. And there is the risk that while driving through the baking desert the engines will over-heat.

Mackinnon said that they have prepared a satellite phone to contact with friends, updating their website (flashmen.org) and asking for help in case of an emergency.

Zidane gives a nod to Chinese charities

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Shamed soccer star Zinedine Zidane has been invited to China to help fundraise for the disabled.

Bosses from management company 11 International, hope the head-butting Frenchman – who got sent off in the final of the World Cup this month – will come to China before the end of the year to promote charities for the handicapped.

"He has been invited to help raise money for charity", said Tian Tian, an official from the Dissemination Department of the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped (CWFH).

On July 14, Arturo Torrents, the president of 11 International came to Beijing to meet with officials of the CWFH. The two sides signed a long-term cooperation agreement. According to the agreement, 11 International will invite at least one famous football player to China to support charities for the handicapped.

Local American author tells war story

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Award-winning American writer and Beijing resident Roy Kesey gave a reading of his first novel *Nothing in the World* at the Bookworm cafe on Tuesday.

The book tells the story of Josko Banovic, a lonely school-boy who became a war hero with the outbreak of fighting between Serbia and Croatia, his native country.

Nothing in the World has won the 2005 Bullfight Media Little Book Prize.

Kesey was born and raised in Northern California but currently lives in Beijing with his wife and children. He writes for over 40 literary magazines in the US, Canada and Britain.

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How to keep it up long distance

By David Drakeford

For those that live far away from their loved ones, the old adage 'absence makes the heart grow fonder' is cold comfort. You may question the choices you have made and face temptation, suspicion or loneliness. You are not alone in your situation however, and the experiences and advice of others may help you before and during a relationship that faces the strain of separation.



Daniel Yorke turns to God to help salvage his relationship

The story

Too much pressure

"We met in April and kept in phone contact after that. There was a big blow-out over the phone and it all ended in early September. The thing about a long distance relationship is that it seriously ups the commitment ante. This was someone I could have happily dated casually, but the long distance thing made it seem more serious than I wanted it to be. I lashed out because I was feeling smothered, and that was that."

— Daniel Yorke from the UK

It can work

"We met in 2002 and started the long distance thing with trips between Sydney and London before he moved to Sydney to be with me in 2004. Communication is vital and with all the cheap phone cards available these days plus email and texts there really is no reason not to be in touch. I think the only way for it to work is the understanding from the start that if things work out one of you is prepared to move so that you can be together."

— Elaine Yeomans from Australia

Courage needed

"He finished his Chinese studies and went back to America for an undefined period of time. I couldn't stop feeling

abandoned although he often wrote to me. I needed someone to comfort me and distant water cannot quench a nearby fire. I should have been braver and told him that I couldn't wait though."

— Erica Yo from China

The advice

Ground rules

Get everything out in the open, so that no one feels they're sneaking around. Talk about whether you can see other people romantically and how often you'd like to speak to each other.

Be original

"My fiancée and I live about 1,300 miles apart right now and to break the monotony of 'I miss you' and 'I love you' all the time we have to come up with some pretty creative ideas to keep expressing our love for each other. One thing we do is send each other mp3s to listen to in bed. We also sit down and watch a TV programme or movie at the same time, then call each other."

The bigger picture

Because you can't talk as often as you like, everything becomes magnified. Therefore, make a decision that you won't fight over small problems. All couples fight some of the time, but in an LDR, save the fighting for the really important issues.



"I just called to say 'I love you'" — Erica Yo keeps up the contact
Photos provided by David Drakeford

Keep busy

It's important to stay active and live your life, so don't hold back from doing the normal day-to-day stuff. Also don't feel guilty about getting on with your life.

An end in sight

There must be a light at the end of the tunnel. Otherwise frustration will set in and upset the relationship balance. If you're a new couple, set a date to have this discussion.

The final straw

If there are problems:

If you see the relationship breaking apart, don't keep it from the other person — tell them. Don't leave that kind of message on an answering machine or throw it in an email. Get the other person on the phone — they deserve it.

Multiple entry student visas

By Annie Wei

Morgan Phills, a 25-year-old student from the US, is doing a six-month AIDS research project in China.

But between September and December she needs to leave China twice — once for her

friend's wedding in Ireland and once for a two-week AIDS conference in Bangkok.

Tian Xin, a police officer from the Exit and Entry Bureau in Beijing said that in the past this would have been a problem but the system has

now changed.

"Since the end of 2004 all foreign students with X visas have been granted multiple-entry permits," said Tian. "They just need to register when they arrive in China."

Morgan's case, however, is a

little different. "As she will be in China for just six months she will probably be given an F visa (short-term stay) instead of an X visa," said Tian. "Most F visas are not multi-entry like X visas. She may have to apply for a re-entry visa again."

ASK Beijing Today

Niko from the US asked: How much does a Peking dog cost and what paperwork would I need if I were to buy one?

Peking dogs are the cheapest dogs on the market, costing around 100 yuan. Beijing has strict regulations on keeping dogs. Most expatriates who want to have a dog in Beijing must follow the same rules as local residents.

You will need to go to your local Public Security Bureau (PSB) with two photos of the pet, your passport, an import certificate if your pet is brought from abroad and your own registration certificate.

Dog owners are meant to register their pets with the PSB every year. The initial registration for a dog is 1,000 yuan. After that, the annual renewal fee is 500 yuan.

Denise Brown from Australia had her cell phone stolen as she traveled on a bus. She asked how serious a problem theft is in Beijing.

Theft is a problem everywhere. Here we offer you some tips that should help you avoid becoming a victim of crime.

1) Carry your bag in front of you.

2) When you are in a crowded place, like the subway, pay attention to the people standing around you. Do not stand in one position for a long time — try to move around from time to time.

3) People wearing earphones and reading newspapers are easy targets for thieves.

4) Watch out for people who pretend to run into you 'unexpectedly'. Gangs often use this distraction technique to pinch mobile phones, wallets and digital cameras.

If you do become a victim of crime report it to the nearest police station as soon as possible or call 110.

Important numbers:

Hotline to the mayor: 12345

65128088

Fire: 119

Traffic emergency: 68455655

/ 68455665

Food poisoning: 83163388

83160233

Directory inquiries: 114

Gas solutions: 65022414

Electricity solutions:

63129999

Talking clock: 12117

Weather report: 211

Legal services: 1600148

Booking railway tickets:

63217188

Pet hotline (free): 160101011

Tap water maintenance:

66189955

To complain about noisy

construction sites: 68413817

68017755

If you have any questions about living in Beijing, write to: dongnan@ynet.com, Beijing Today will try to find you the answers to your questions.

(By Annie Wei / Gan Tian)

Shake your rumbas – it

Institute Cervantes, which opened in Beijing last Friday is the institute's first branch in China and its 58th branch in the world. A series of activities have been arranged to celebrate the opening of the school, aimed at spreading Spanish language and culture. Below we review two of the highlights.



He's behind you!



Scenes from Psitt!! Psitt!!

Curtains rise on the Spanish Festival

By Chu Meng

The Barcelona-based Gelabert-Azzopardi dancing company, with its world famous Spanish dancer and choreographer Cesc Gelabert, put on a convincing performance that never faltered at the Poly Theatre last Friday night.

The first piece of choreography, *Psitt!! Psitt!!* was a stunning performance. This dance was performed to a piano and orchestral score, composed by musician Pascal Comelade and was a special tribute to Erik Satie (1866-1925), the eccentric French composer.

Choreographer Cesc Gelabert commissioned Comelade to compose the music and offered him 21 of Satie's annotations as a source of inspiration. The choreographer said: "The piece focused on the character instructions that Satie wrote for his performers, not for the purpose of technique. It was to influence people's mood and change people's rational ideas by means of unusual, poetic messages, with his surrealis-



Cesc Gelabert

tic humor."

As an uplifting and happy piece, the second choreography *Viene Regando Flores Desde La Habana a Moron*, which means 'He waters flowers from La Habana to Moron', provided a fitting balance to the first performance. It was a sensual work, one that was full of spontaneity and joy. To the sound of vibrant rumbas, boleros, and mambos of the Cuban musicians who were playing live on stage, the magnetic qualities of the Spanish dancers were fully aroused.

"*Viene Regando Flores Desde La Habana a Moron* is a dynamic performance to the rhythm of live Cuban

music performed by four musicians," said choreographer Cesc Gelabert. "In 40 minutes, the dancers perform the Rumba with style and wit."

Cesc Gelabert, a Spaniard from Barcelona, is a pioneer of contemporary dance in Spain and one of the most influential Spanish choreographers and dancers of the 20th century. He studied both dance and theatre and embraces different influences in his work, from classical ballet to modern theatre and from cinema to contemporary art.

He choreographed the first show in 1972. The following year he produced his first performance. By the end of the 1970s he was an active member of New York's art scene.

In 1980, Gelabert met dancer Lydia Azzopardi at the London Contemporary Dance School, and they combined their two versatile talents into choreography. Later, they founded the Gelabert-Azzopardi Dance Company.



"Ignore her, she just wants attention."

Photos provided by Institute Cervantes

's Spanish modern art

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"Kiss me baldy!"



The Institut Valencia d'Art Modern

Lost in a maze of museums

By Jiang Xubo

Museums. The buildings are sometimes works of art themselves. *Laberinto De Museos* (the Labyrinth of Museums), an exhibition of pictures, models and short films of over a dozen Spanish museums, reveals how beautiful these buildings can be.

The Institut Valencia d'Art Modern (IVAM) an institute for modern art, was built in Valencia in 1984 and opened in 1989. The building was transformed into a work of art after an expansion project in the 1990s. Sejima and Nishizawa, two Japanese architects in charge of the project, covered the whole museum with a steel structure dotted with holes. When the lights are turned on, IVAM turns into a 32-meter-high semi-transparent steel box – a perfect home for a collection of over 9,000 pieces of modern art. Peering through tiny holes in the steel structure of IVAM's model, you cannot help wondering what it would be like to look around such a brilliant museum. The expansion project won the architects a golden prize for best design at an architecture festival held 2004 in Venice.

Museo Guggenheim Bilbao, a museum at the Vasco Autonomous Region for modern art, is another eye-catcher at the exhibition. Frank Gehry, the American architect, promised to make his design a model of modern architecture when he won the selection to design the building. He did keep his word. The museum, which sits in a ravine, bears an unrealistic air with its irregular roof, tiers of terraces and streamlined-walls. It looks just like a grotesque

yacht with its reflection in the river nearby, shining with metallic luster. But it proved to be an ideal stage for the museum and its 8,500 pieces of artwork when it opened in 1997. It is also used as a public space for speeches, drama shows and concerts.

Spanish museums have undergone profound changes since the 1980s. All kinds of buildings have been turned into museums.

Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo, an art center in Seville was formerly an abbey; Centro de Arte Contemporaneo de Malaga, Malaga's contemporary art center, was built in the 1940s and was used as a market. Domus Artium 2002 used to be a prison when it first opened in 1930 and was only turned into Salamanca's contemporary art center in 2002. Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Spain's national museum in Madrid, currently houses more than 15,000 works of art. It was built in 1788 and served as the city's general hospital for about 200 years until it was turned into a museum in 1986.

The pictures, models and video clips on display will remind you how these museums looked dozens of years ago.

"Chinese museums and Spanish museums are developing in two entirely different environments," said art critic Li Xianting. "Chinese museums are just on the threshold of their development. Most Chinese museums don't have their own collections and remain a site for exhibitions. These Spanish museums are in a different league."

Laberinto De Museos (the Labyrinth of Museums), an overview of 16 major Spanish museums and art centers, is on display at the Institute Cervantes until October 15.

Other shows at the Institute Cervantes:

Short films show:

More than 60 short films of all themes and all lengths, ranging from around one minute to over half an hour, will be shown at the institute's meeting hall for free until October 15, starting at 10am everyday.

The films come from collections of seven museums displayed at the *Laberinto De Museos*. They are:

- Centro Vasco de Arte Contemporaneo
- Centro de Arte Caja de Burgos
- Centro de Arte Contemporaneo (Malaga)
- Domus Artium 2002 (Salamanca)
- Institut Valencia d'Art Modern
- Museo de Arte Contemporanea (Vigo)
- Museo Extremeño e Iberoamericano de Arte Contemporaneo

A Short History of Myth

By Karen Armstrong

Key themes: mythology, religion and history

Synopsis: *A Short History of Myth* is the introductory volume to the international 'The Myths'-series, which otherwise consists of creative retellings of various myths by many widely respected fiction-writers.

Karen Armstrong's essay is exactly what the title says – but that's still a hell of a tall order. After an introductory chapter considering: 'What is a Myth?' she then rushes through myths over the ages, dividing her history up into six periods of human development, from 200,000 BC through to the present.



Karen Armstrong

'A Short History of Myth'... I'm thinking Minotaurs, Jason and the Argonauts and Norse Gods...

"The book is more about provoking thought than supplying raw data, so do not come to it if you want chapter and verse on the Norse gods or the like. What Armstrong does in her skid over the millennia is make comparisons, connections and contrasts in a way that cannot fail to enlighten the general reader. She is particularly convincing on the significance and origins of paleolithic myth – always a speculative matter, but here handled with maximum plausibility."

– Nicholas Lezard, *The Guardian*

Right, so what, according to Armstrong, is a myth?

"For Armstrong, myth is a symptom of our metaphysical anxiety, an unreciprocated appeal to gods who have let us down. (...) This academic study opens the way for the fictional efforts that follow, because Armstrong sees myth as a playful, whimsical, sub-junctive activity."

– Peter Conrad, *The Observer*

How does religion fit into all of this?

"The author reverts to her occupation as a popular historian of religion and shows how the world's great belief systems – first, Judaism, Confucianism, Buddhism and Greek philosophy, thereafter Kabbalah, Christianity and Islam – spring from, then reject, the mythological element in the human imagination, preferring the abstract, the rational, the ethical: that which Armstrong defines as Logos." – Carolyne Larington, *Times Literary Supplement*

So myth and religion and intertwined?

"Her short history of myth is also an even shorter history of religion, and Armstrong does a good job of showing in

clear, concise language how both were shaped by the problems of the societies they served. (...) Armstrong's book is a readable, informed introduction to a fascinating subject, but her emphasis on myth's cultic origins makes it a slightly daunting preface to a series of contemporary retellings."

– Christopher Tayler, *Daily Telegraph*

Does Armstrong give any other examples of how myths came about?

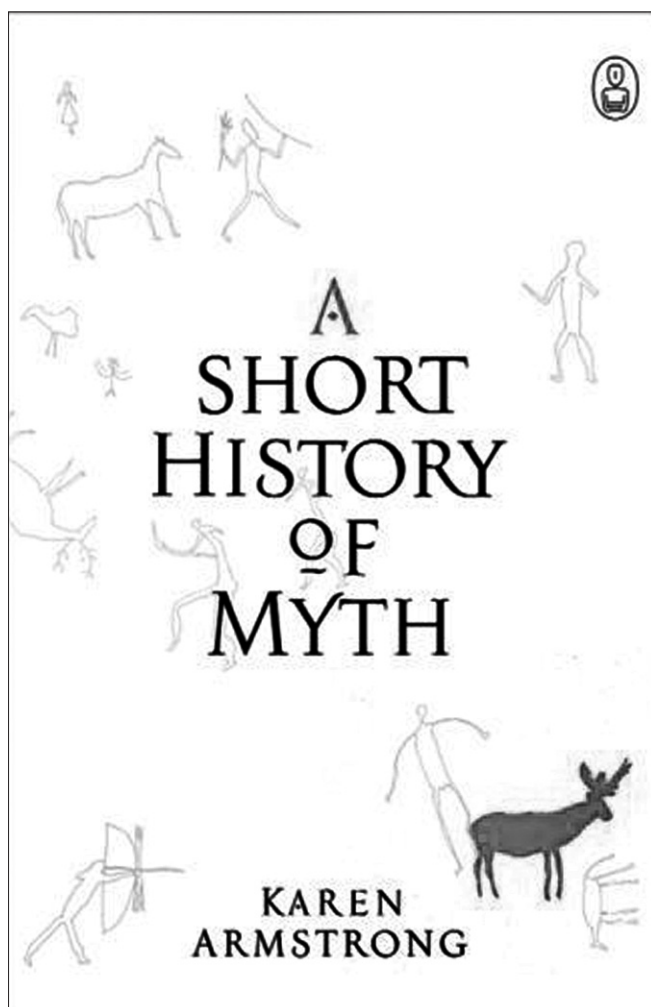
"Armstrong states as if a fact that the earliest hunters felt guilty about killing their prey, and that this led to the myths (and rituals) associated with hunting – far more of a leap than seems justifiable, based on the evidence. It's a plausible and interesting reading, but only a possible one – but Armstrong has no room for (or, apparently, interest in) alternative readings: she has a very specific idea of what myths are, and won't allow for any other".

– The Complete Review

"Armstrong has no room for alternative readings"...sounds like she's taken a slightly one-sided approach...

"Given the task of writing a general introduction to the series, she has produced a book that will make any anthropologist embarrassed or angry. (...) Indeed, it is all-too-familiar a pattern: a fictional account of the past, told to make sense of the present. Unless I have missed some deep irony (a satirical expose of our fantasies about the past, perhaps?), Armstrong has been extremely misguided in the conception and production of this book."

– Simon Goldhill, *New Statesman*



"A book that will make any anthropologist angry"... that's got to be bad news...

"Her essay here is serviceable. She relies heavily on the usual suspects – Mircea Eliade, Joseph Campbell, Walter Burkert – and has a lamentable tendency to make sweeping pronouncements that sound trite."

– Elizabeth Hand, *The Washington Post*

Anyone disagree?

"*A Short History of Myth* is a handy stand-alone overview of the ever-evolving partnership between myth and man from Paleolithic times to the present. Succinct and cleanly written, it is hugely readable and, in its journey across the epochs

of human experience, often moving. (...) Armstrong's exposition is streamlined and uncluttered without being simplistic. She falters once, when she speculates that today it is novelists who can partly fill the void left by myth."

– Caroline Alexander, *The New York Times Book Review*

Sounds like the historian in her has made the book a worthwhile read...

"Elegantly argued and consistently thought-provoking (...) She's an excellent, if sometimes over-moralistic, historian and guide."

– David Flusfeder, *Sunday Telegraph*

(By Tom Mackenzie)

Local shelf

Cabinet of Natural Curiosities

By Irmgard Musch, Albertus Seba (Illustrator)

Taschen, 544 pages, 540 yuan

The book is one of the 18th century's greatest natural history achievements and remains one of the most prized natural history books of all time. Amsterdam-based pharmacist Albertus Seba (1665-1736) had a passion that led him far beyond the call of duty. His amazing, unprecedented collection of animals, plants and insects from all around the world gained international fame during his lifetime. In 1731, after decades of collecting, Seba commissioned illustrations of each and every specimen and arranged the publication of a four-volume catalog detailing his entire collection.

The Infinite Line

By Briony Fer

Yale University Press, 232 pages, 405 yuan

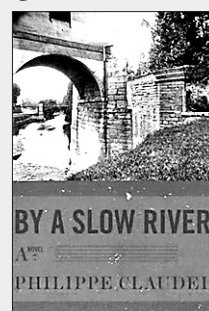
This landmark book offers a radical reinterpretation of the innovative art of the late 1950s and 1960s. Examining the work of major artists of the period – including Mark Rothko, Piero Manzoni, Agnes Martin, Dan Flavin, Eva Hesse, Blinky Palermo, and Louise Bourgeois – Briony Fer focuses on the overriding tendency toward repetition and seriality that occurred at the moment of modernism's decline, gained ground in its aftermath, and continues to shape much of the art seen today.

Available:

Timezone 8 Art books

Where: Jia 24-2 Meishuguan Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
Contact: 6400 4427

By a Slow River



By Philippe Claudel

Alfred A Knopf, 194 pages, 185 yuan

Former Police officer Dadais reflects back two decades to December 1917, the French villagers are shocked when the strangled corpse of a 10-year-old girl Belle 'Morning Glory' Bourrache is found by the banks by a slow river that slices through a small, unnamed French village. The townsfolk find the crime hideous, assuming it could only have been done by an animal. On the other hand he wonders how everyone, including himself, takes for granted that the nearby battles against Germans will leave both sides filled with uncountable numbers of dead.

Available:

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang
Contact: 6586 9507

(By Wang Xiaoyuan)

Beijing snack attack!

By Chu Meng

Jiumen Xiaochi, a courtyard grouping of 11 of the most famous Beijing traditional snack (*xiaochi*) restaurants opened in the Houhai bar area to the west of the Madame Soong Ching Ling Museum earlier this month.

There are major snack brands like Qian's glutinous rice cake, Wei's cheese juice, Li's flour tea, pouch-shaped

baked wheat cake, Yueshengzhai's stewed marinated beef, Ma's water-boiled sheep head mutton, and Bai's jellied bean curd.

Some other Beijing *xiaochi* are popular among the Chinese, but might not be every foreigner's cup of tea. These include Feng's boiled beef stomach and Chen's boiled pork intestines and lungs with baked cake.

The brand names include

both the name of the product and the maker's family name. The history of some brands can be traced back 600 years. As the 3rd, 4th, 5th and even 6th generations of their family businesses, many managers are in their 70s or 80s.

Jiumen Xiaochi is a registered company. Hou Jia, the 40-year-old general manager, is now trying to persuade the elderly descendants of the

snack makers to devote money to advertising the products – something they have never done before.

Moving out from Qianmen, which is now under renovation, will the old big name snacks still keep their unique attraction in their new home in Houhai? Does the old saying "It doesn't matter if your tavern sits in a remote location so long as the smell of your wine is appeal-

ing," still apply?

Jiumen Xiaochi

Average cost is 68 yuan (US\$8.5) per person. Parking is a problem in the area, which is popular with tourists.

Where: 1 Xiaoyou Hutong, north side of Houhai, next to Former Residence of Song Qingling, Xicheng

Open: 10am-1pm, 5pm-9pm.

Tel: 6402 5858

Photos provided by Jiumeng Xiaochi



Think you can stomach this? Boiled cow's stomach at Baodu Feng

Boiled cow stomach at Baodu Feng

By He Jianwei

Baodu Feng was first opened in 1875. The founder's family name was Feng and his shop specialized in boiled tripe with recipes handed down from generation to generation. Eunuchs and aristocrats in the Qing Dynasty (1644 – 1911) are said to have recommended Baodu Feng to the palace. The restaurant quickly established a monopoly as supplier to the palace kitchen serving the Qing emperors until the decline of the dynasty.

"Our two most famous recipes are boiled goat's stomach and boiled tripe," said Feng Guangju, the third generation owner of the restaurant. Both dishes include meat taken from the rubbery wall of the stomach.

When the scarfskin and unwanted fat is removed, each cow provides less than 100 grams of meat so five are needed for each dish. The meat costs just 16 to 40 yuan for every 150 grams, depending on the quality.

Chefs cut the meat in a special way and cook it for a specific amount of time to guarantee the best tasting dish. Homemade sauces are served with the meat. The sauces are made of sesame paste, soy sauce, vinegar, coriander, fermented bean curd and two kinds of Chinese traditional herb.

The goat's stomach, boiled in water and dipped in the unique sauce tastes crisp while tripe tastes soft and tender.

Deshunzhai's sesame seed cakes – probably the best in Beijing

Sesame seed cakes at Deshunzhai

By He Jianwei

Deshunzhai has enjoyed a reputation for making some of the best sesame seed cakes and fried dough circles in Beijing for over 100 years. "Our founder opened this shop in the period of Tongzhi (1862-1874 AD), Qing Dynasty," said Wang Shihua, the fifth generation of Deshunzhai.

The raw material of sesame seed cakes is crude flour with a little fermented flour. Dough is covered with sesame paste, Chinese prickly ash salt and aniseed ash. It is then brushed with sesame oil and peanut oil, covered in sesame seeds and placed in the oven. The baked sesame seed cakes look fairly normal from the outside but have dozens of internal layers

with different textures. The smell hits your nose when you bite into them.

As well as the specially selected flour, oil is also crucial for fried dough circles. The proportion of sesame oil and peanut oil is 30 percent and 70 percent respectively. The fried dough circles smell savory and taste crisp. It is said that if you accidentally drop the fried dough circle on the floor, it will be break into eight sections

Connoisseurs recommend eating the fried dough circles with a bowl of *douzhi*, the king of snack food in Beijing – a strange-tasting, greenish-gray, fermented bean porridge. And if you can manage to have a whole bowl of it, you will earn great respect from your Beijing friends.



Outside Yueshengzhai

Stewed mutton and beef at Yueshengzhai

By Chen Shasha

During the reign of the Qing Dynasty emperor Qianlong (1736-1796 AD), a man called Ma Qingrui was employed in the palace as a kitchen assistant. He soon learnt how to cook up palace snacks and returned to the streets of Beijing to open a small restaurant called Yueshengzhai, which translates as 'flourish monthly'. The restaurant, which dished up stewed beef and stewed mutton, quickly became popular with Beijing residents.

Yueshengzhai gets all its beef from Inner Mongolia. The beef cuts are taken from the front legs while the mutton is picked from the front legs and flank. The beef and mutton is cut into squares and cooked in an iron pan in layers for up to

seven hours until soft and tender.

The meat is cooked in a sauce made from soybean, anise, cardamom and cinnamon. "The palace doctor recommended the sauce saying it was good for health, especially in the summer," said Ma Guoqi, the sixth generation of Ma Qingrui.

Ci Xi, the empress who reined China for over six decades in the late years of the Qing Dynasty (1861-1908 AD), ordered Yue Shengzhai's beef and mutton dish every month. Today, a plate of Yueshengzhai beef will set you back 12 yuan and mutton 15 yuan.



A traditional Beijing breakfast – Jellied bean curd

Jellied bean curd at Doufunao Bai

By Chen Shasha

Many Beijing citizens, modern or traditional, old or young, eat jellied bean curd for breakfast. And among all the different types of jellied bean curd in Beijing, the one made by Bai Li during the Emperor Tong Zhi (1862-1875 AD) of Qing Dynasty is most popular.

Growing up in poverty in the Shandong Province, Bai Li came to Beijing with his brother to earn a living.

They cooked bean curd on the street and developed their own sauce.

"The mushrooms for the sauce should be picked fresh and cooked with the boiled water kept for the jellied bean curd," said Bai Hua, the fourth generation of Bai Li.

Before eating, a slice of mutton is added to the jellied bean curd. Each bowl is sold for three yuan in Houhai.



Free sandal

Spend over 988 yuan at Lapargay in the Modern Plaza (40 Zhongyuancun Dajie, Haidian) and you will get a pair of sandals for free until the end of July. For details, call 6257 6688.



20% off

The newly-opened Huan Ji Huang Sanzhi restaurant (24 Baiwanzhuang Dajie, Ganjiakou, Xicheng) specializes in fish and chicken dishes. The restaurant is currently offering 20% off all dishes. For details, call 6832 0456.



40% off

40% off tiles at B&Q (10 Maliandao, Xuanwu) until July 30. New brands like Roca will be discounted by 10%. For details, call 6331 6611.



50 yuan voucher

Spend over 50 yuan at Xiao Lan Yang hot pot restaurant (59 Youanmennei Dajie, Xuanwu) and get a 50 yuan discount voucher until August 14. The modern furnished restaurant offers traditional hot pot lamb. For details, call 6351 6885.



70% off sandals

Shang Pin Zhe Kou discount store (Wukesong, Haidian) is holding a 'discount festival' with up to 70% off all sandals. For details, call 8828 3350.



Up to 20% off



Up to 20% off six models of air conditioners until July 30 at Su Ning household appliance store (Ciyunsi, Chaoyanglu, Chaoyang). There are also discounts on TVs, cell phones and Mp3 players. For details, call 6761 9988.

100 yuan voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at Xi Dan shopping mall (120 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and you get a 100 yuan voucher until the end of July. A number of items are also on sale. For details, call 6656 5588.

15 yuan for shark's fin soup

The Oriental Restaurant is holding a "Crazy Offer" period between July and August with premium shark's fin soup for just 15 yuan per person. Available daily for dinner and during weekends at lunch. For more information, call 6505 2277 ext. 34.

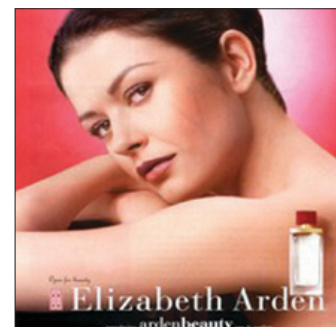
Special dish

With summer fast approaching, Jin Gu Cang Number 3 (Sanlitun, Chaoyang) will open its terrace. While sitting outside sipping tea or coffee, you can enjoy the beautiful gardens and also eat special summer dishes from the barbeque. For details call Sasi on 136 7132 5635.

Free beer

The most raucous pub quiz event in town, the John Bull quiz night pulls in the hard drinking, trivia saturated crowd. Break up into teams and compete to win free beer. Entrance free, 8pm every Tuesday. For more details, 6532 5905

3Elizabeth Arden



Spend over 780 yuan on Elizabeth Arden products at the Modern Plaza (40 Zhongyuancun Dajie, Haidian) and get a free bag of cosmetics including, 4g color lipstick, 7ml hydra cream, 10ml perfume and 3g cheek pink glow powder. For details, call 6257 6688.

(By Terence Lu)

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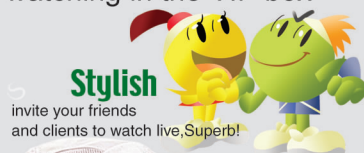
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TSINGTAO
青島啤酒

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Oi, four eyes! So many things to see in China, and you're blundering around in the blackness imposed by your own uncooperative eyeballs. Sort it out: here, we examine your ocular options.



Coco song



Johnson & Johnson Acuvue Brand Contact Lenses



Bausch & Lomb

Eyes wide shut

Tom Mackenzie goes looking for lenses

I went on the prowl for contact lenses in Beijing a few weeks ago when my English supplies ran out. Finding a place that sold lenses wasn't difficult, as there seem to be opticians on every street. But I needed the help of a Chinese friend to translate - my Mandarin is very basic and discussing lens types, stigmatism and eye measurements would have been near impossible without her. The optician

gave me a quick eye test before fitting me out with a pair of Chinese brand monthly lenses. The test was free and three pairs of contacts came to around 120 yuan. There doesn't seem to be a great deal of choice when it comes to brands, with Bausch and Lomb products pushed by the opticians I visited.

Guide:

Vision Infinity

The private eye care salon is run by Yang Xue, an experienced Malaysian optometrist. A Chinese and English service is provided. A private, cozy and unique atmosphere, with light purple decor and classical music greets patrons. Reservations are a must there as they only serve one customer at a time. Thus every customer will have a focused and individual treatment.

As well as contact lens fitting, you will also find in the salon prescription glasses and sunglasses. They have well-known brands like Gucci, Dior, EA, D&G, Dupont, Longines, Flair, and Silhouette. For those who have unique tastes and special needs, the shop also has designers' frames from other countries in Asia, which are exclusively dealt with by Vision Infinity in Beijing.

It is highly advised you make the reservation in the afternoon as it will be the best time to enjoy the free tea, coffee and snacks served by the shop.

Where: Room 2105, Block 9, 21st Floor JianWai SOHO Office Tower

Price: 800-5,000 yuan (filling a prescription), 2,600-3,200 yuan (purchasing frames)

Tel: 5869 8323

Open: 10am-8pm

Products:

Prescription glasses & sunglasses

Multifocal / Sun Sensors / Polarized / Polycarbonate ophthalmic lens

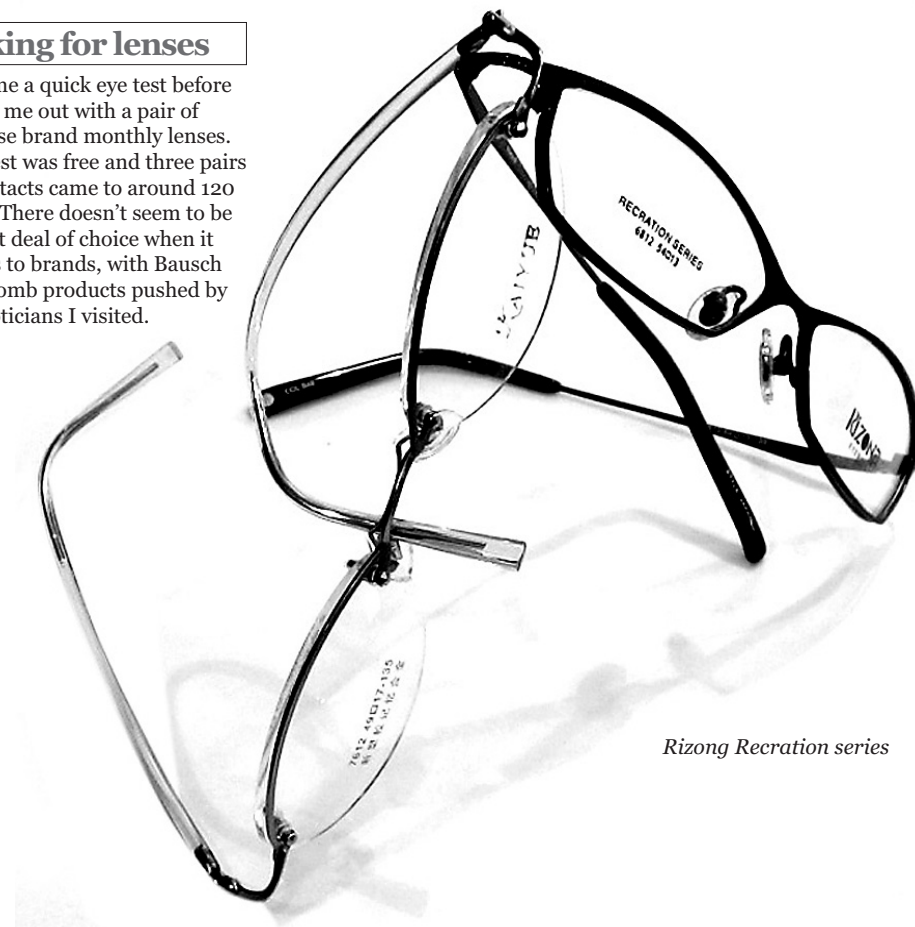
Conventional / Disposable / Cosmetic contact lens

Services:

Adult eye examination, contact lens fitting.

Free spectacle cleaning & adjustment and eyewear image consulting

Free vehicle fetching & delivery (advance booking)



Rizong Recreation series



Ciba Vision zebra lens

Contact lens products:

Johnson & Johnson Acuvue products

Some ACUVUE Brand Contact Lenses are so thin and comfortable that you can wear them while sleeping (for up to one week). First-time wearers prefer ACUVUE 2 Brand Contact Lenses for their three to one for comfort over Biomedics 55. Wearing 1 DAY ACUVUE every day and throwing them away is the healthiest way to wear contact lenses.



Alcon Solution

Bausch & Lomb

Despite the solution scandals, the company is still one of the leading soft lens manufacturers in the world.

Ciba Vision

The leading international provider of cosmetic contact lenses to change and enhance eye color. The brand offers a wide selection of colors, odalities and cosmetic contact lens styles. Their products include AQuify 5 Minute, Multi-Purpose Solution and Clear Care.

Available: Vision Infinity, Beijing Intech Eye Hospital and The United Family Hospital's eye clinic.

If you still prefer glasses...

Coco Song

Italian design mixed with eastern mystery. The frames of Coco Song are a combination of exaggerated color matching and representation of ancient eastern totems. They use materials seldom used for spectacles, such as aluminum, titanium or even board. For the cases, silk, embroidery and lacquer are all used. The brand is perfect for those with curiosity and passion for adventure.

Aigo MP3 sun glasses

This is a perfect pair for the digital generation. With earphones installed on the two arms and an MP3 player on the right side, you can enjoy all the music you like and control the sound by turning the wheel by your ears. Polaroid glasses protect your eyes from any flash or reflection. The most important thing is: they look cool!

Available: Vision Infinity

Hospitals for eye tests:

Beijing Intech Eye Hospital

Beijing Intech Eye Hospital is one of the leading eye centers in Beijing managed by Beijing Intech Hospital Management & Consulting Co. Ltd. The hospital has a professional team with both excellent overseas and domestic training.

Where: 12, Panjiayuan

Nan Li, Chaoyang

Tel: 6771 5558

Open: 8:30am - 6:30pm

The United Family Hospital's eye clinic

Where: 6 Jiangtailu (600 meters east to Lido Hotel)

Tel: 6433 3960

Open: 24 hours (for the eye clinic, it is recommended that you make a reservation three days in advance)

Eyecare:

Alcon Solution

Opti-Free Solution is a unique patented formula that contains Polyquad, an ingredient that destroys harmful microorganisms on the surface of your lenses, but is gentle enough to use as a final rinse. When used as directed, Opti-Free Solution also removes loosened deposits and traces of the daily cleaner.

Allergan

Allergan's eye care products

are focused on Ophthalmic Pharmaceuticals, gained through years of experience as a global leader in the eye care industry. Their eye care products treat glaucoma, ocular allergy and infections, retinal disease, and dry eyes.

Available: Vision Infinity, Beijing Intech Eye Hospital and The United Family Hospital's eye clinic

Grill and bear it

By Qiu Jiaoning

You may be concerned by reports connecting grilling food with cancer, but you needn't worry unless you eat huge, blackened steaks for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Take that from Zhang Zhouyi, doctor and director of Beijing Ciji Health Checkup Chain Institution. Instead, your biggest concern with grilling should be making sure that you use good food safety techniques to prevent food-borne illness.

Although cancer risks from grilling should not be your main concern, it still helps to understand the current thinking on the issue in order to cook smart. Briefly, grilling and cooking meats in other ways at very high temperatures produce chemicals that have been linked to increased cancer risks, says Zhang.

Food safety rules for cooking indoors also apply to grilling on your back porch. You must wash your hands, keep cooked and raw foods separate, and don't forget to properly chill and heat foods. Follow the tips below to keep your summer grilling safe for family and friends:

Clean your grubby paws. Wash your hands for about 20 seconds before and after handling food. Keep moist towels or hand sanitizers around when you can't get soap and water.

Scrub the grill with hot, soapy water before each and every use.

Keep coolers stocked with plenty of ice or ice packs and keep meats refrigerated until it is time to place them on the grill.

Use separate brushes for raw and for cooked meats, plus wash all brushes in hot, soapy water between uses.

Always make sure meats are cooked to a safe internal temperature.

Timing is everything. Brush on light, oil-based sauces earlier in grilling. For less charring, baste sauces containing sugars (fruit puree, honey, preserves) toward the end of the cooking.

Don't forget your veggies. Add a little olive oil and herbs before grilling. Keep in mind that charring vegetables could also produce carcinogens, so avoid eating the blackened areas.

Get ahead of the game. Precook meats then quickly grill for flavor.



Jus' grillin'



Going where the weather suits my clothes: the air is thin on the Qinghai-Tibet line.

CFP Photo

Take me higher: say no to altitude sickness

By Gan Tian

Since the Qinghai-Tibet Railway opened on July 1, many plan to make the fabulous journey to Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, which is at an altitude of more than 3,500 meters. In order to get to those must-see destinations safely and comfortably, you must be prepared for altitude sickness.

Altitude sickness has a collection of symptoms, that can include shortness of breath, headaches, and nosebleeds, brought on by decreased oxygen in the atmosphere. Here are some tips that will help you to overcome it.

Preparation

- You need to take a physical examination before the journey. People who have heart disease, high blood pressure, or mental illness shouldn't go to the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

- Knowledge is power. Be aware of altitude sickness. Don't be panicked by the symptoms. Ask for information from the experienced.

- Exercise everyday before the trip. Climbing, hiking, long-distance running are very useful.

- Bring enough clothes to prevent breathing infectious diseases.

Do

- Take it easy when you feel a little bit choked. This is normal when you enter Tibet. Allow time to adjust to the new environment.

- Eat vegetables and fruit. That will

help supply vitamins to your body.

- Drink water. Drink, drink, and drink.
- Use half a day to rest. Sleep more than seven hours a day.

- Open the window when you sleep at night.

- Carry a medicine box with you.
- Be very careful of catching cold when in the plateau. Temperatures drop sharply between day and night. It is easy to catch a cold in these circumstances. Wear more clothes, even if it is very hot.

- Your schedule should be carefully designed. Start your journey from low-altitude scenic spots, and then go higher.

For example, you can go to Nyingchi City in the east part of Tibet first, as it is at a comparatively low altitude of 2,900 meters. Then Shigatse city, the second largest city in this region, is higher, and finally the highest, Namtso Lake, more than 5,000 meters.

Don't

- Wear yourself out. Take a short sleep the day before you are scheduled for a trip there. This helps you adjust to altitude stress.

- Drink alcohol. Otherwise, you will get dehydrated.

- Skip meals or eat or drink nothing but sugared snacks or drinks; sharp changes in blood sugar can increase altitude stress.

- Over eat.

- Overexpose yourself to sunshine. Ultraviolet rays are more dangerous to your skin in the plateau.

A kung fu stretch for your back

By David Drakeford

For a quick and invigorating lower body exercise try a workout based on Shaolin kung fu stretches.

Preparation

Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing and take off your shoes if you prefer. Even warm-ups can lead to injuries so go carefully, especially if you are new to this kind of exercise.

1. Half lotus



Sit on the ground or a rug with your knees bent and your right leg fully on top of the left, right foot resting on left thigh. You can put your left leg on top instead if this is more comfortable. Your back should be straight.

The half lotus is good for back posture, flexibility of hips and can strengthen your core muscles – back and stomach.

2. Forward Stretch



Next, lean forward over your legs slowly and carefully but don't curl your back. Try to lean until you can slide the palms of your hands across the floor and kiss the ground. Keep your back fully extended and arched as you fold yourself to the ground. Hold the position for a moment; then slowly rise back up to a comfortable sitting position.

The buttocks and lower back will now be fully stretched.

3. Forward again



Fold yourself forward again, but this time curl your back and extend until the top of your head touches the ground. Hold for a moment then return to the sitting position.

4. Stretch on both sides



Now stretch from side to side. Lean your upper body as far as you can over to your left side curling your body close to your leg and hold the position for a moment. Rise and repeat on the right hand side then sit up and relax.

Your hips should rotate nicely and your core muscles are worked.

Double trouble for wrinkles

By Qiu Jiaoning

Dr Faith Deng from Bioscor International Clinic for Cosmetic Medicine:

For centuries, physicians and patients have sought non-surgical therapies to remove or reduce the appearance of facial wrinkles and aging.

Now, by combining two of the most popular wrinkle fighters, Botox and Restylane, doctors can offer a simple, non-surgical alternative.

Every smile, laugh, frown and other expression leaves its mark upon your face. Doc-

tors use Botox to treat wrinkles caused by expressions and Restylane to fill the ones you already have.

There's the Botox injection, a simple, non-surgical procedure that can dramatically reduce even your toughest wrinkles within days.

Botox blocks the impulses from the nerves to tiny facial muscles that are related to expression lines.

After treatment the muscles relax and the overlying skin remains smooth and unwrinkled. Untreated mus-

cles still contract allowing for normal facial expression to be unaffected. Botox injections will last approximately four to six months.

Another way to treat these lines is Restylane, which is a safe and natural cosmetic dermal filler that restores volume and fullness to the skin. It lasts between six to nine months.

Because Restylane is completely natural and contains no animal ingredients, pre-testing for possible allergic reactions is not necessary. Gaining the look you desire is

as easy as it is quick. And the results are instantaneous.

Clinical studies have shown that patients treated with Restylane have experienced a high degree of satisfaction.

Bioscor Beijing Clinic

Where: Room 1008, E-Tower No.12, Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang

Free consultation in Chinese, English and Japanese.

Tel: 6503 5707 / 5706

Email:

Beijing@bioscor.com.cn
www.bioscor.com.cn



Wu Hou Temple

Photo by ImagineChina

Sebastian Montana takes it easy in Chengdu

While China rushes to develop at breakneck speed, southwestern Sichuan Province's capital of Chengdu is in no hurry to go anywhere. Although clearly in a state of transition, and expressing international ambitions, laid-back seems to best capture the essence of this sprawling metropolis of nine million.



Teahouse

Photos by CFP

The city of spice and tea



Chengdu's high rises

Yesterday and today

Traditionally the main inland access city for travelers on route to mystical Tibet, or a cruise up the mighty Yangtze River, Chengdu (meaning "successful big city") has a history of nearly 4,000 years, leading many historians to regard it as the oldest established city in the world.

Once the starting point of the southern Silk Road, Chengdu boasts a string of global firsts. It was here where farmers made use of the first irrigation system (250BC) and shoppers used the first paper money (960-1126AD).

Still feeding that irrigation system today, the Fu Nan River is an essential part of Chengdu's make-up. It was apparently thanks to the efforts of local school children that this river is today pollution free. A campaign lasting 10 years got the city's main artery flowing green and clean, drawing strollers, joggers and tea drinkers to its banks in scenes reminiscent of Europe.

The city's gleaming high rises and opulent department stores almost camouflage its most valuable asset – the traditional teahouse. Wherever you turn here you'll find people sitting passing the time, sipping tea.

Getting There

Chengdu is 2,048 km from Beijing and slightly over two hours by air. It can also be reached by overnight train.

June, July and August are good months to visit.

Teahouse and hotpot

Locals have a saying, "When people have five hours to spare in Beijing, they use the time to look for a job. In Chengdu, you would use two hours to shop, cook and eat. The other three hours, you would spend in a teahouse." Tea seems to be embedded in the DNA of these folk, and if China has the best teahouses in the world, Chengdu has the best teahouses in China. Jasmine is the tea of choice and I have it on good authority that sitting on a bamboo chair enhances the experience. Teahouses also function as places to exchange gossip, like a word of mouth daily newspaper, where the last speaker becomes the editor.

Finding a place to have tea is like looking for sand on a beach.

Take a walk around the craft markets, flea markets, commercial districts, underground shopping malls

– you'll trip over them in every nook and alley.

When you're not sipping tea there's a more than even chance you'll be eating. Chengdu has a reputation as the culinary capital of China, but beware your gastronomic delights are bound to be a baptism of fire. Sichuan food has a double-edged way of introducing itself, it's spicy and flavor loaded, but it renders your mouth numb.

The spice comes from chilies. Fresh, dried, fried, stewed, powdered and pickled, these are the soul of Sichuan seasoning and should be the provincial emblem.

Its more incendiary partner, the *hua jiao* or flower pepper (prickly ash), is the ingredient that brings about the feeling your mouth has been injected with local anesthetic. It is widely believed the humid climate in Chengdu encourages people to eat heavily spiced food and the potent pepper may help reduce internal dampness. I can't verify that theory, as my internal dampness became a volcanic eruption. But one must persevere in the name of adventure.

With regional cuisine boasting 5,000 different dishes, you're not likely to get stuck for choice.

Standards like *ma po dou fu*, pock-marked Mother Chen's beancurd topped with minced beef, floating in chili bean sauce, and *gong bao ji ding*, a spicy chicken and peanut dish known overseas as kung pao chicken, both originate in Chengdu.

Likewise, *zhong shui zhao*, delicious crescent-shaped dumplings in a blistering sauce of chili and sesame oil. But perhaps of all the taste sensations Chengdu is home to, this is where the Hot was put in Pot. Hot Pot, a kind of super-charged fondue using wafer thin slices of lamb, beef and mutton here turns up the heat on its cousins in northern China. Fragrant oil and fistfuls of spice float dangerously in each bubbling pot, like an arsonist laying an ambush.

The real pleasure of having had the equivalent of hot coals rolled across your tongue comes

afterwards, as you take a sip of Sichuan tea and feel the liquid magically soothe a mouth from hell. The tea also seems to extract the subtlety and intricately layered flavors of what many consider among the world's finest cuisine. A taste sensation of the most unexpected kind, it's a must for any gastronome.

While there is a proliferation of low-budget eateries, the Veranda Anshun Bridge Restaurant beckons those looking for something different. Chengdu's only restaurant built on a river bridge – and possibly the only one in China – is opulent dining deluxe and a must if you like being spoiled by super efficient service that is choreographed with military precision and executed by waitresses who could easily double as models. The food isn't bad either.

Marble columns of the Anshun Bridge so impressed Marco Polo on his Chinese travels that they are immortalized in his epic work *The Travels Of Marco Polo*. Night views along the Anshun River from the restaurant are dazzling – but while the glass walls allow you to look out, it also gives every bridge crossing local the chance to gawk openly at diners trying to enjoy exotic dishes like sauteed bull frogs and chili-fried snails Sichuan style.

The strip on the east side of the river near the Verandah Bridge Restaurant is fast developing into the city's premier bar street. White-collar nouveau riche have elevated Jin Jie Bar's couch sprawling, bohemian decor into the city's top port of call, probably due to the tall tasty jugs of locally brewed beer.



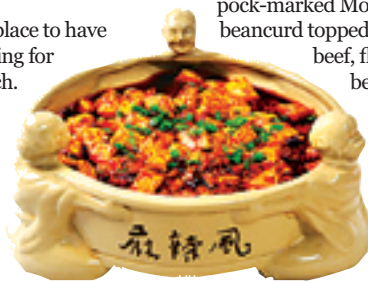
Nightlife on a Chengdu street

Must-sees

Wu Hou Temple, in the southern suburbs, particularly honoring counselor and military advisor Zhuge Liang, ancient China's outstanding politician and military strategist, living during the Three Kingdoms (220-280AD) period. Old cypresses and classic red walls surround the Temple, cossetting its most valuable cultural relic, a 3.67-meter stele built in 809AD.

On the other side of town, the 17th century **Wenshu Monastery**, the largest Buddhist temple in Chengdu, is famed for its tranquil garden courtyards and popular vegetarian restaurant. It also features one of the busiest tea houses in the city. Under a cloud of incense smoke and chirping birds, chill out in bamboo chairs, buy a sprinkling of tealeaves and have your cup refilled with hot water indefinitely. Chew on an infinite supply of sunflower seeds and let the world go by.

A good way of walking off all that spicy food is to take an evening stroll along **Chun Xi Lu**, Chengdu's famed pedestrian street. It's like walking head-on into a people-packed light bulb. Fluorescent chaos, gaggles of shoppers, watchers and the watched. Or pick up some of the city's much sought after exquisite embroidery, brocade, lacquerware, bamboo or plaited straw goods.



Ma po dou fu

The famous River Danube is the second largest river in Europe, flowing across nine countries and connecting cities and regions in different countries with different sceneries and traditions.

People say the capital city of Hungary, Budapest, is the pearl of the Danube. The beautiful river separates the city. Buda is at the west bank of the river and Pest is on the opposite side.

As well as visiting different spots in the city, another way of traveling through Budapest is following the River Danube – there's no better way to view the city.



Flat and steamy chess action



Tour the city by tram

Photos by CFP

Budapest - traveling along the Danube

Bridges

There are eight bridges along the River Danube, linking Buda and Pest. The Chain Bridge is the first permanent one spanning the Danube. It was built between 1842 and 1849.

The remarkable bridge structure was designed by the Englishman William Thierney Clark. Its cast iron ornaments and structure still radiate calm dignity and are a true monument to industrial achievements of 19th century Europe. The bridge was destroyed during WWII bombings but was carefully reconstructed afterwards.

Summer on the Chain Bridge event

The city's largest summer arts festival with free admission to all events. With over 150 attractions on offer, the festival will take place over seven consecutive weekends, starting on July 1 and ending on August 13. People would enjoy traditional culture from rural Hungary, concerts by wind bands, and entertainments for children.

Get there: The Chain Bridge crosses the Danube in the centre of Budapest and connects Roosevelt Tér on the Pest side with Clark Adam Tér on the Buda side. Metro station: Vorosmarty Tér (yellow underground line).



Chain Bridge

Szentendre Town

Szentendre Town is 19 kilometers away from the city on the Buda side of the River Danube. The town possesses something of a Mediterranean atmosphere and has always been favored by artists. There are museums and exhibitions devoted to the life and work of Szentendre-based artists in the town.

Get there: You can get to Szentendre by taking the suburban commuter HEV train. It goes from Budapest every 10-30 minutes from Batthyány Tér, (this line is connected with the metro). It costs about US\$2 and takes around 40 minutes.

There is a frequent bus service between Budapest and Szentendre from 5:20am to 22:40pm each day. The bus terminal in Budapest is located at the Arpad hid metro station, and the Szentendre bus terminal is located at the suburban train (HEV) station. The journey takes about 40 minutes.

Margaret Island

Budapest's finest green spot is located in the middle of the River Danube between Margaret Bridge and Arpad Bridge.

The island bears the name of Margit (Margaret), daughter of King Béla IV (Adalbert).

The 100 hectares of parkland is kept peaceful and quiet by being sealed off to most vehicular traffic. For breathing the clean air and going through the green environment, you can rent a 'family bike' known as Bring Bringóhintó Cycle

Car, or take a healthy walk through the island.

The park boasts various scenes: century-old chestnut avenues, English, Japanese and French gardens alternate with the ruins of a nunnery, an old water tower and a wide range of sports facilities.

The island has the largest open-air swimming complex in Budapest, the Palatinus, and a fine outdoor theater. In summer, the Margaret Island Open-air Theater offers musical evening per-

formances. The 10,000 trees with rose gardens on the island make it serene and miles away from the hustle and bustle of the modern city.

Get there: The Margaret Island is located in River Danube between Arpad Bridge and Margit Bridge. Bus No. 26 serves the whole island and No. 1, 4, and 6 trams stop on the Bridges near the island. The stop is called 'Margitsziget'.

Bus tour

There are many sights to be seen just along the embankment of the River Danube (Pest side) by No.2 tram.

From its northern terminus at Jászai Mari tér, it passes right next to the Parliament, before joining the embankment proper and opening out spectacular views towards the Matthias Church, the Fishermen's Bastion, the Castle District, the Chain Bridge, Elizabeth Bridge, Gellért Hill, the

Gellért Hotel and Baths, and finally just before the Lágymányosi Bridge, the newest bridge in Budapest, the new National Theater and Palace of Arts.

On the return journey, visitors can take a moment to observe the Corvinus University building, the Central Market Hall, the Vigadó Concert Hall, and the Gresham Palace and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences both on Roosevelt Square.

Thermal spas

Budapest is famous for its health and thermal spas. There are 118 springs and boreholes altogether, supplying the city's spas and baths with 15.4 million gallons of water daily ranging in temperature from 21 to 78 degree centigrade. Even in the center of the city, there are thermal springs.

Two of the best baths: **Csillaghegy Swimming Pool and Lido**

It is the oldest lido of Budapest, situated on a park-like territory of more than 90,000 square meters, open even during winter. The pools are provided with filtration-cum-rotating equipment. A hotel and a restaurant serve food to visitors. There are three pools with the water temperature raging from 22 to 28 degrees centigrade.

Get there: You can find it at Csillaghegy, in the third district of Budapest. You can get there by the suburban train (HEV) or take the No. 42 bus.

Palatinus Lido

The lido on Margaret Island was opened in 1919. The water is supplied from the thermal spring of St. Margaret Island. Calcium-magnesium-hydro-carbonic mineral water also contains sodium from its small salt concentration.

There are eight pools in the lido, including a children's pool, a swimming pool, a wave pool, a circular pool and a swim-lesson pool. The water temperature ranges from 26 to 36 degrees centigrade.

Get there: You can go there by the No. 26 bus.

(By Jackie Zhang)

By Han Manman

"Yintone is a professional finance company that focuses on finance consulting and planning. It is also China's firsts finance planning company to provide a professional finance marketing service. The company has a high demand for talent. Our staff should first familiarize themselves with the world of finance and get a good understanding of the



financial markets. He or she should also know about public relations and advertising. The following three graduates passed the Yintone intern interview and proved that they have a number of important strengths. They made such good impressions on us that we offered them all jobs at the end of their internships."

— Frank Kun, head of HR, Yintone

Experience more in a small sized company



Xie Jing: works for Yintone Marketing department and got a degree in insurance at the Central University of Finance and Economics. She joined Yintone in July 2005 after a three-month internship.

Although my major was in finance and insurance, I have also had an interest in media and marketing. After failing the postgraduate entrance examination for the Communication University of China, I decide to find a job.

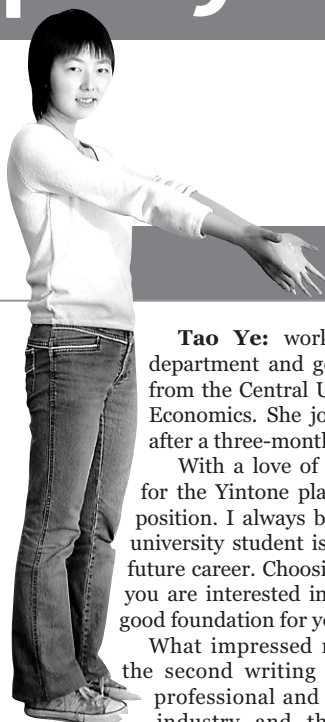
My previous intern experiences had been in media companies. I worked as a media administrator but most of the work I did just involved compiling information, which I found very boring. I chose to do an internship at this company because I thought it would be more up my street.

Yintone does company planning and some of their customers are finance groups that require a lot of financial and insurance expertise. I didn't worry about the size of the company. I prefer to work for a smaller company, because it gives me the chance to use my skills and creativity.

I had an unforgettable business trip to Shanghai during my internship, which highlighted the difference between campus and society. We didn't sleep for two days because we had to finish an important proposal for our customer's deadline. I was selected to give the presentation. But one of our colleagues who was responsible for booking train tickets told us the wrong departure time. We had to drive overnight from Beijing to Shanghai for the next day's presentation. We had a sleepless night in the car. At 9:30am, we arrived at Lujiazui in Pudong district. Unfortunately, we were eliminated from the selection process because our presentation was half an hour late.

I realized the real difference between campus and society. In society, all the market cares about is the result, no one cares about how much you prepared for it. At university we enjoyed the process and the experience. But in the real world the result is the only thing that matters.

My advice to students would be not to fear hardship and problems as the experience you get from dealing with them will help you in the future. And don't worry too much about your past and mistakes you may have made. From the day you became an intern, you are like a blank sheet of paper. Learn from the work you are given even if it's really basic stuff.



Tao Ye: works for Yintone planning department and got a degree in marketing from the Central University of Finance And Economics. She joined Yintone this month after a three-month internship.

With a love of planning work, I applied for the Yintone planning department intern position. I always believed the first job for a university student is very important for their future career. Choosing the industry and work you are interested in could help you set up a good foundation for your future development.

What impressed me in the interview was the second writing test. The test was very professional and focused on the planning industry and the questions were very interesting. The last question was about planning an original wedding for a colleague. I put together a romantic plan based on the French film *A Very Long Engagement*. This was the most interesting examination I have ever had.

During my three-month internship the most important thing I learnt was the company mantra 'The advertisement quality is not decided by the advertisement agent who works on it but by the customer.' Our customers did not adopt some ideas I came up with that I thought were good. I finally realized that my ideas had nothing to do with the industry and profit. And I totally understood the saying 'the customer is always right.'

Before Yintone, I did two very different internships at a state run company and in the sales management department of a global drinks company. Working in the state-run company was very boring. All I did was serve the boss tea and water. In the state-run company I had to call everyone 'teacher', which made me feel like I was back at school.

My second internship was very competitive. My work was very trivial but I got the chance to do lots of training. The management was comparatively strict.

Whether you choose an internship or a job, you should think about what you want. If you plan to study in the future or put more energy into your life and do not want to spend much time on your work, then work in a state-run company. However, internship salaries in state-run companies are very low and some may not pay you anything at all. If you want to learn something, better choose the industry you're interested in. You will learn a lot from it.



Liu Xiaoran: works in Yintone's marketing department and got a degree in Human Resource Management at the Central University of Finance And Economics. She joined Yintone in July 2005 after a three-month internship.

My friend introduced me to Yintone. I was planning to go abroad to study at the time, and I didn't have any previous internship experience. At the time I was very interested in finance and planning, so I tried to find a job that combined both finance and planning. So I jumped at the chance to do an internship at Yintone.

My first impression was that Yintone was a great place to work in. It is a very energetic company. The offices are decorated more like a bar than a standard office. All the employees are young and active. I have worked here for over a year now and the place still has an energetic atmosphere.

I had an unforgettable experience during my internship. I once sent a wrong email to a customer. I decided not to tell my boss but to try to resolve the problem myself. But I just ended up making the situation worse. In the end I had no choice but to tell my boss and ask for his help. We managed to solve the problem together and it was even included in the interview questions as an exemplary problem.

After a three-month internship I got the job very easily. I think they gave me the job not only because of my educational background but also because I can handle responsibility, do my work well and am career minded. My advice for university students is to learn more from your work, ask more, do more and observe what others do.



Frank Kun

Xie Jing

Comments from Frank Kun: I interviewed Xie Jing. Her general knowledge is considerable. She also took part in lots of social activities like a BTV host competition. The way she handled herself in the interview impressed me.

She is very easygoing but also very tough. No matter what difficulties and problems she comes up against, Xie never loses heart. She always shows zeal for her work and puts a lot of hard work into her projects. Normally, if we make an appointment with a customer between 9 and 10 am, we will go straight there from our homes. Or we will go straight home after a late afternoon meeting. But Xie always comes to the office to arrange everything first in the morning or comes back the office after a late meeting with a customer. That shows her dedication to the job.

Tao Ye

Comments from Frank Kun:

Tao Ye worked as an intern at Yintone for two months. She is a little, shy girl but she does her work with eagerness and vigor. She is the kind of person who will not stop what she is doing until she reaches her goal. Our company platform executive said Tao was made for planning – her way of thinking is very flexible. If Tao could try to become a bit more outgoing and open, she would be even better.

Liu Xiaoran

Comments from Frank Kun:

At first, I was concerned she was not mature enough to handle the work because she looks very young. But she soon proved me wrong. She came up with so many of her own ideas. She is not as laid-back as Xie Jing, she is incredibly energetic and motivated. If we give her work, she will do it quickly and well. She is also very hard working. I remember once we were responsible for compiling the Bank of China's annual report. She came to the printing house at 4:30 am just to check if there was anything wrong with the report. This impressed me a lot.

(Photos provided by Yintone)

Destiny

By Li Yingbo

"Ah!" a shrill cry wakened John, sweats flowing down his face. "Thank goodness! It was only a dream. Oh, shit, a quarter to nine." he took a glance at the watch, "no more time left." Putting on his clothes, John rushed out of the door even without washing his face.

"Kate said she would go if I was late. I cannot be late at the first date. I must be quick." Jumped into his Passat, he drove on the highest shift. Threading on the streets, John couldn't get rid of his nightmare. "Well, it was a bad omen. Did it predict that I would not see Kate today? It was strange that how my car could run into that lovely girl, for I could handle my car pretty well. Distinctly, she was a beautiful girl, without any hurt on her but dead."

John took a glance at his watch, "Oh, no, take care! Only five minutes for the last five miles. Now, concentrating on driving is the most important thing. Probably, I will exceed the speed limit. Exceeding a little bit is OK. I couldn't be late, huh?"

"We've known each other for one year on internet. But we haven't seen each other in real life, even not exchanging our photos. To tell you the truth, I love him since the first time we met on net. We talked warmly till dawn like long lost friends.

"Half year later, he said he was possessed by me and wanted to see me in real life. Though I also was eager to meet him, I decided to put it off for

a half year, for I need more time to test our emotion. Furthermore, during this half-year, we mustn't keep in touch with each other. I know it was cruel for us, but I don't want to do a sloppy job. I thought if we really love each other, we could come over it, or else, to say good-bye. Having no other choice, he agreed. Then we arranged the time and place: Central Park at nine o'clock. He said he would come no matter what happened, and he would wait for me until I come. But I said I would go if he arrived late, and I would get the conclusion that he forgets me. He complained that the terms were so harsh. But I thought love should be serious like the pure water, with no impurities.

"Now it's only two minutes left. Why he haven't arrived. Maybe... maybe he really changer his mind, may be...may be he forget the promise... may be ..." Kate walked quickly about the gate of Central Park, looking around anxiously. "Will I continue to wait, or... leave? He told me he would drove a sea blue Passat, taking me to the seaside, his favorite place. Where is his car?" Kate walked a few yards away from the gate, closer to the road. "Only 30 seconds left." Without any consciousness, Kate walked straight. "Will he come? Will I leave, or still wait? The sea blue one, sea blue... no sea blue one, ... no ...oh, yeah, the sea blue one! Oh... god, oh! No! ..."

"Oh no, no it can't be true!" John jumped out of his car, rushing to the girl he knocked down. Face bleeding,

he couldn't see her clearly. "No, the dream! No she cannot die!" Staring at the girl, John didn't know what to do.

The police came, taking him to the police office. The last minute before he went on the car, John glanced at the park's gate, no one waiting there. "What is tomorrow goanna to be? Probably, I would never see her, for she had said she would not see me if I was late. How could she be so cruel to me? And... did I kill the girl? Or ... was she... the murder?"

Sometimes, people like John, not knowing who the person he killed was, never know the truth, and even till the last minute of their life. Never know who had loved them, and who betrayed. And that's probably the destiny.



Li Yingbo is a student at the Communication University of China

Photo provided by Li Yingbo

Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

John Gordon's reply

Dear Li Yingbo,

Wow! You've written quite a story! I have to admit that my heart started beating rapidly as I reached the surprising conclusion. Let's focus on some Chinglish errors in your story, and also talk about writing stories in general.

In your first paragraph, you talk about "sweats" pouring down John's face, but sweat is an uncountable noun, so you should just say "sweat". Of course, you could also say that "drops of sweat rolled down John's face".

Later on in the same paragraph, you write that John left "even without washing his face". The order of the words "even" and "without" should be reversed. This is a very common mistake made by many Chinese students, because the word order in English is different from Chinese. You make a similar mistake in your fourth paragraph when you say "even not" (it should be "not even").

In your second paragraph, you refer to being "late at" a date, but the correct expression is "late to". You

also say "it was strange that how", when you should use either "that" or "how", but not both. In the last sentence of this paragraph, you say that the girl was "without any hurt on her but dead". I have no idea what you mean. Maybe you could say that she was "without any faults".

Halfway through your story, you switch perspectives from the male to the female. In a case like this, many writers would choose to mark the switch in some way, perhaps by adding a dotted line or an extra line break. You could consider doing the same thing when your perspective switches back at the end of the story.

Several times in your story you refer to the idea that Kate would "go" if John were not on time. Since Kate is already in the agreed upon location, you should probably say that she would "leave" instead of "go".

The simile that you use at the end of paragraph five-serious like pure water-is a bit awkward in English. We don't necessarily think of water as being serious. You do stress the purity aspect of the water, but I'm not

sure how that relates to the seriousness. It might be better just to say "as pure as water".

Congratulations on writing an engaging story. Language issues can be resolved through editing, but coming up with a story that readers enjoy requires a creative mind. I would encourage you to continue writing fiction, and explore writing different kinds of stories. Keep us posted here at *Beijing Today*!

Best,

John



John Gordon is the vice president of Beijing New Channel School

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see a chinglish sign, please take a picture and send it to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.



A load of garbage

By Philip Space

please cast garbage of classification

This sign was found outside an apartment block in Beijing. Unfortunately, the phrase 'please cast garbage of classification' does not make sense. Instead of 'cast', a native English speaker would write 'throw' or 'put' and 'garbage of classification' would be changed to 'different types of litter'. A better way to write this sign would be '**please put glass, paper and plastics into different bins**'.



Pushing all the wrong buttons

By Philip Space

You lady will push this button before leaving.

I do not know where this sign was found and I have very little idea what it means. I do know, however, that it is not correct English. To start the statement with 'you lady' would be considered impolite by native English speakers, as it is overly direct. Writing in the future tense, 'you lady will push this button before leaving' makes the sign sound like an order when presumably it is more of a request. So the sign would be better phrased like this: '**Ladies, please push the button before leaving**'.



Rocky hazards

By Philip Space

Notice the rockslide, please is run about by cliff.

This sign is warning people about a danger, so it is important that it makes sense. It is difficult to be sure of the exact meaning of the message but we can guess that it is warning people to stay away from the cliff. A better way to phrase the message would be: '**Danger, rockslides! Please keep your distance from the cliff**'.

Photos provided by Purple Haze Restaurant & Bar

(By Chen Shasha)

Friday, July 21

Exhibition**The Sky Has a Mouth – an exhibition by Wu Junyong**

Where: Chinese Contemporary, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until September 17

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2421

Ink and Sex – 2006

Where: South Stream Gallery, Inside Chaoyang Liquor Factory, Beihuqu Lu, Anwaipei Jie, Chaoyang

When: until July 23

Admission: Free

Tel: 5502 3828

Movie**The Contract (Zu Qi)**

Lily is a prostitute on the run, while Guo is looking to dodge a creditor and return to his hometown to see his dying father. But Guo needs to show up with a fiancée to please his dad.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Inside Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When: 8pm, until July 22

Admission: 30-50 yuan

Tel: 13901134745

Music**Peter Scherr**

Piano-based jazz enjoyed not only by jazz aficionados, but local punk musicians as well.

Where: D-22, 13 Chengfu Lu, Haidian

When: 11pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6265 3177



Saturday, July 22

Exhibition**Formless, Visions of China – Alessandro Rolandi Solo Exhibition**

Where: Art Channel, East End Art Zone B, Caoyangdi Village, Chaoyang

When: until July 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6959 2416

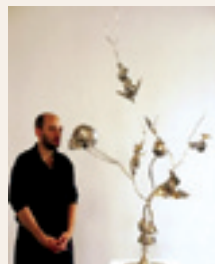
Huang Yan Solo Exhibition

Where: Xindong Cheng Gallety, Beihqi Jie, Anwaipei Yuan, Chaoyang

When: until August 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 5202 3868

**Outdoor****Inner Mongolia Plateau & Lake Walking Convention**

Where: Dalinuoer Lake of Inner Mongolia

When: July 22-23

Cost: 530 yuan

Tel: 8489 6319, 8489 6320

**Movie****Island**

A story about the lives of two old men, one who lives on an island and the other on the mainland. Directed by Feng Lei.

Where: AKS Culture Center, A-3E Beijing Linda Mansion, Dongtucheng Lu, Chaoyang

When: 2pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6451 4065

Oxhide

This multi-award winning film, directed by Liu Jiayin, is her family story.

Where: Box Cafe/ Space In Imagination, Xiwan-gzhuang Xiaoqu, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian

When: 7:30pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6279 1280

Sunday, July 23

Exhibition**Private Fantasy**

Retrospective Show of Miao Embroidery Artist Wu Tongying

Where: Amelie Gallery, Room 505, Apt.5 China Central Place, 89 Jianguomen, Chaoyang

When:

until September 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 6530 7048

**Museums Labyrinth**

Where: Instituto Cervantes of Beijing, 1A Gongti Nanlu, Chaoyang

When: until October 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666

Movie**Liberte – Oleron**

On a family vacation to the island of Oleron, Jacques Monot decides to buy a sailboat – despite his lack of sailing experience.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang

When: 6pm, until July 26

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

**Music****Indian – Chinese Beats**

Tabla man Tato Ramirez with yangqin and erhu accompaniments.

Where: Stone Boat Cafe, Ritan Park, southwest corner, Chaoyang

When: 9pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6501 9986



Stage in August

Performance**Disney's Winnie the Pooh**

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, August 16-27

Admission: 180-1,000 yuan

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Who: China Puppet Art Troupe

Where: China Puppet Theater, 1 A Anhua Xili, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, August 11-13

Admission: 50-240 yuan

Swan Lake Puppet show

Who: China Puppet Art Troupe

Where: China Puppet Theater, 1 A Anhua Xili, Chaoyang

When: 10:30am, August 19-27

Admission: 50-240 yuan

Music**The Lion King – Movie Music Symphony Concert**

Who: Symphony Orchestra of China National Chinese Opera and Dance Drama Company

When: 7:30pm, August 6

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park,

Dongcheng

Admission: 10-200 yuan

Beijing Jazz Week

Who: Golden Buddha Jazz Unit

When: 7:30pm, August 23-25

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park,

Dongcheng

Admission: 10-200 yuan

The Second International Chinese Choral Festival

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, August 22-25

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Children's Chorus

Who: Beijing International Children Chorus

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, August 18

Admission: 20-100 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)